

MILESTONES to the KINGDOM 1982

GRAHAM PEARCE

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**A Review of
World Events
in the Light
of Bible Prophecy**

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CONTENTS

	Page
Chapter 1: ISRAEL AND THE LEBANON WAR	5
The Sinai Withdrawal	
The Lebanon War	
Israel Justifies Her Attack on the P.L.O.	
P.L.O. War Potential	
The Truth About the War	
Concern for Civilians	
Christadelphians and Israel	
Pope — Lebanon — Jerusalem	
Chapter 2: CONSEQUENCES OF THE LEBANON WAR	15
Profound Changes in the Arab World	
The U.S. Peace Initiative	
The Soviet Position	
Israel and the West Bank	
Chapter 3: ISRAEL: AN AWAKENING	
MORAL CONSCIENCE	23
Biblical Responsibility	
The Complexity of Israel's Politics	
Chapter 4: OTHER MIDDLE EAST MATTERS	29
Soviet Progress in Persia (Iran)	
Permanent Occupation of Afghanistan	
The Gulf War	
More American Bases in the Middle East	
Preparation of the Middle East for the Kingdom	
Chapter 5: AMERICA—WESTERN EUROPE—SOVIET	35
A Quickening Pace of Change	
Essentially Different Viewpoints	
Confrontation Policy—Military	
Confrontation—Economic	
Trade Wars	
Political Separation	
Europe Down-Graded in U.S. Policy?	
France Always the Trouble-Maker	
Roman Catholic Influence on President Reagan	
The Soviet's Future Leadership	
Chapter 6: A NEW SPIRIT IN BRITAIN?	44
As Israel, Probably a Year of Long-Term Consequences	
The Falkland War	
The British Spirit	
Independent Nuclear Deterrent	
Home Service Force and Civil Defences	
Trade Union Power	
Chapter 7: BRITAIN AND THE COMMON MARKET	51
Associate Membership?	
Continuing Conflict	
The Future of the E.E.C.	
Chapter 8: THE POPE AND HIS CHURCH	55
The Pope's Visit to Britain	
Reunion: Only on Rome's Terms	
The Present Pope Set to Reverse the Ecumenical Trends of the Roman Catholic Church	
Jesuits Down-Graded, Opus Dei Up-Graded	
The Pope and 'Providence'	
The Pope and Poland	
East Germany and the Protestants	
POSTSCRIPT TO CHAPTER 8: A Vatican-Washington Connection	
Epilogue: FIVE MINUTES TO TWELVE	66

INTRODUCTION

Israel takes first place in Milestones '82. There have been many happenings, some that probably have great consequences. We, as the people adopted into the nation of Israel, should take a close interest in the changing scene.

The happening uppermost in people's minds is the Lebanon war, and the behaviour of the military, calling in question the morality of the nation. This war overshadowed the painful withdrawal from Sinai. The Lebanon war also accelerated the peace proposals that had been put forward by the U.S.A. at the end of last year. Greater than any of these happenings is the changing outlook of the nation — something quite the opposite to that presented by the media, and of great interest to us.

The withdrawal from Sinai was completed on schedule in April. The 'Peace for Galilee' war began in June, while the Falkland crisis occupied the world's attention. There was rapid movement up the Mediterranean coast, and also in the Bekaa valley against the Syrians. The P.L.O. and Syria were forced to a cease-fire in July. Early in August, Israel made a determined attack on West Beirut to get at the P.L.O. camps, despite attempts by America to stop Israel. The P.L.O. forces were evacuated from Beirut in September; the refugee camp massacres by the Phalangist christians took place at the end of September.

With the P.L.O. defeated as a military force, President Reagan in a major national speech announced America's urgent pursuit of a Peace Plan, aiming to bring in Jordan instead of the P.L.O. as the representative of the Palestinians. The Israeli Labour Opposition party considered the plan a basis for negotiation, and Jordan expressed willingness to participate. The Begin government defiantly declared the starting of more settlements on the West Bank, the region in dispute with the Palestinians. Throughout the year there was increasing hostility towards the Jews throughout the world, including the U.S.

Britain, like Israel, has been through an eventful year; some events probably having long-term consequences. The Falklands war and the surprising patriotic response stands out. Britain was seen as an effective sea power, and a people with their old streak of independence. Other items were the Pope's visit, by no means the success it seemed, and the continuing clash of interests between Britain and the Common Market.

Western Europe emerged as visibly hostile to America, and asserting an independent position. Trade and commerce are steadily weaving bonds with the Soviet and eastern Europe; the fear of nuclear war

makes co-operation with the Soviet more acceptable than the confrontation policy demanded by President Reagan.

The Pope continues as a man of importance on the world scene. His true character is emerging. Behind his friendly warm approach that wins the admiration of the people, he is increasingly seen as a conservative defender of the Catholic faith, not willing to give anything away, working behind the scenes in the way we expect from Vatican leaders. With his conservative theological stand he is blending a kind of Catholic socialism that appeals to the poor and the dissidents of this world in much the same way as Communism. He represents both stability and revolution.

The passing off the scene of Brezhnev will doubtless be significant, but it is too early to comment. It is said Andropov was elected because of the support of the military, and they may be expected to be under less restraint than was the case under cautious Brezhnev.

How busy the angels must be with world affairs so complex and so rapidly moving!

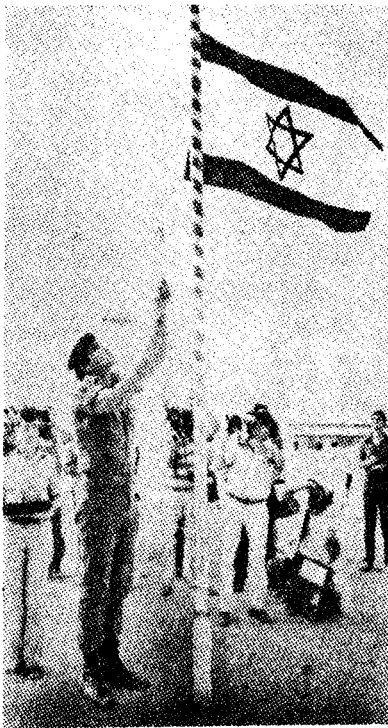
GRAHAM PEARCE
Crick, England,
January, 1983

Chapter 1: ISRAEL & THE LEBANON WAR

Israel justified her attack on the P.L.O. in Lebanon as a response to unending provocation by the P.L.O. It was also a question of taking the opportunity to act while the world was engaged with the Falkland crisis. The timing was also governed by the completion of the Sinai withdrawal, and freedom from attack on her south border.

THE SINAI WITHDRAWAL

Under the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty of March, 1979 and the Camp David Accords of 1978, the Israeli evacuation of the settlements and military establishments in Sinai was to take place in stages and be complete by April 1982. Israel claimed when she left that she had left nothing useful to the Egyptians — ‘just a lot of sand’.



An Israeli soldier lowering the Star of David at Sharm el Sheikh when Israel returned Sinai to Egypt.

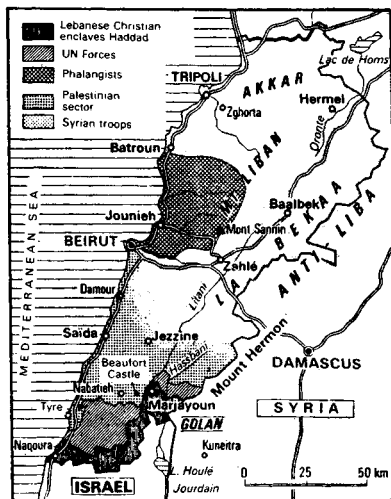
The military assessment of the withdrawal is that with the various agreements signed with Egypt, with the early warning systems, etc, and with the peace-keeping force established in the buffer zone, there is adequate security. And the great advantage is the releasing of military manpower and the lessening of the possibility of war on two fronts. After Sadat's assassination, President Mubarak has constantly maintained his adherence to the peace treaty, despite Israel's hard line over the West Bank. He held to the treaty during the Lebanon war.

The evacuation of Sinai is of more than ordinary interest to us. It puts the region back to its desert condition suitable for Christ's return and the judgment seat. Under Israel there was an observation post on Mount Sinai. Part of the agreement with Egypt is that the Sinai desert shall be left as a no-man's land.

THE LEBANON WAR

The campaign was a powerful combined operation of army, airforce and navy. After two days of fighting, the ports of Tyre and Sidon were taken and the strategic Beaufort Castle was flying the Israeli blue and white flag. In ten days the P.L.O. Headquarters in Beirut had been wiped out and Israeli tanks were pushing still further north towards Tripoli. By this time also the Israeli airforce had astonished the world by destroying the twenty SAM missile batteries that were the Syrian main defence, without a single Israeli plane lost.

They had destroyed over 500 tanks, including some of the latest T-72 Soviet tanks; and had shot down some 90 Syrian MIG fighter planes without any loss to themselves. Israel took some 6,000 to 7,000 P.L.O. prisoners, and a similar number of P.L.O. were evacuated from Beirut under the control of multi-national observer corps.



The Chequered Map of Lebanon.

ISRAEL JUSTIFIES HER ATTACK ON THE P.L.O.

The Golan Heights, lying to the north-east of the Sea of Galilee, was formally annexed at the end of 1981. Israel had conquered these vital commanding heights from Syria in the 1967 war. This had been a step toward security in the north, and had reduced the Syrian threat to the normal life of the northern towns and kubbutzim. But a threat from due north had been steadily growing over the years as the P.L.O. established themselves in South Lebanon. Turned out of Jordan, they had made Lebanon their stronghold, and had recently been extensively armed by the Soviet — not merely with terrorist weapons, but with heavy weaponry. Shamir, Israel's foreign minister, briefly stated the situation that brought about the Israeli attack:

“ Israel's action against the P.L.O. terrorists in Lebanon came after 14 years of provocation and attacks on Israel's population. The situation became intolerable when the P.L.O. deployed Soviet long-range artillery and rockets that paralysed the entire civilian population of northern Israel” (*Guardian Weekly* 12.9.82).

Immediately the attack began, Israel was condemned in the United Nations for invading another nation's territory — she was the aggressor. President Begin justified this aggression as a pre-emptive strike. A small nation whose manpower is so precious must defend

itself so as to minimise its casualties. When the enemy is preparing for war, then to choose the best time for counter measures is wise (*Jerusalem Post*, 22.8.82).

P.L.O. WAR POTENTIAL

How necessary the attack on the P.L.O. was, became apparent when Israel found that the actual war potential of the P.L.O. against Israel was far greater than it had assessed. The first reference was in the *Jerusalem Post* at the end of June:

“ The dimensions of the P.L.O. arsenals so far over-run by the Israeli forces in the present ‘Operation Peace for Galilee’ have shocked even Israeli intelligence experts and ordnance specialists. One of them has assessed the quantities of all types of arms, ammunition and explosives as sufficient to arm a million men. Such quantities are far, far, beyond any prospective P.L.O. capacity. They light up the cumulative threat being built up a stone’s throw from Israel’s northern border, by the P.L.O. in collaboration with the Soviets — and under the cosy protective hand of the Soviet” (*Report by Shmuel Katz, J.P. June ‘82*).

Nitzan, deputy commander of the Logistics Corps, said the quantity of arms discovered so far is “ten times” larger than the I.D.F. (Israeli Defence Force) had estimated. A later article by Katz expresses how soldiers were astonished at the extent of the weapons found:

“ Suddenly light was shed on the true roots of the conflict over Palestine. To the astonished eyes of the I.D.F., and subsequently to television viewers, there were revealed gigantic, indeed ‘unbelievable’ stores of arms, mainly Soviet (but also some of Western, including American, manufacture) which Chief-of-Staff Eitan confirms must have been built up since the cease-fire of July 1981. . . . What is certain is that Operation Peace for Galilee has not only achieved peace for Galilee, but has destroyed the foundations of a formidable new front with immense destructive power in the war planned against Israel by the coalition of Arab States” (*J.P. 18.7.82*).

In one week the Israeli Defence Force destroyed \$3 billion of Soviet equipment, and captured \$1.2 billion. This is a serious loss to the Soviet.

The military ‘foundations’ just referred to is expressed in the following picture of the fortifications hidden underground at Sidon:

“ ISRAEL FINDS SOVIET FORTRESS IN LEBANON—This was the biggest base in the world. (And remember this was Saida, Biblical Sidon). It was built of steel-reinforced caverns, and miles of underground galleries cut through the earth and rock, linking huge command centres and storage halls, large enough to shelter fleets of helicopters — steel doors shutting off ultra-secret chambers, designed to be opened by radio from submarines — one chamber comprised a vast intelligence storehouse packed with files of military plans for every conceivable operation and region, with a map section covering sea bottoms of the world. *All the documents were in Russian*. An exit leads down to the sea enabling Soviet officers to leave submarines at night and enter without using the bunker entrance guarded by the P.L.O.’” (*Taken from Bible News Review, October 1982 — original source not known*).

Perhaps it sounds fantastic. Yet here is confirmation in a report from Sidon in the *Jerusalem Post*, July 18th, 1982:

“Another piece of Soviet equipment not known in the West and now in Israeli hands is a giant boring machine for tunnelling into mountains. ‘People who have seen this machine do not believe their eyes when they see it in action. If we put it on one side of Mount Tabor and start drilling, we could have a tunnel right through in not more than two days’ he said”.

Not only did Israel remove a terrible military threat, but it removed a vile and unscrupulous enemy who had terrorised the Lebanese inhabitants for six years:

“From the evidence accumulated by Israel and from P.L.O. documents which have been captured, the picture which emerges of this organisation and of its behaviour in Lebanon is horrifying.”

“The P.L.O. terrorists — many of whom were imported criminals, adventurers and mercenaries — tyrannised the greater part of Lebanon for more than eight years, spreading fear, death and humiliation wherever they appeared. . . The world should know about children who were killed in front of their parents, about women who were raped in front of their husbands, about eyes which the P.L.O. ‘heroes’ plucked out and about the amputated limbs which they sent to their victim’s relatives by way of intimidation” (*J.P.* 11.7.82).

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE WAR

Although the facts related in the previous section show Israel was justified in destroying the P.L.O. power in Lebanon, there was a great outcry in all parts of the world at Israel’s inhumanity and immorality in killing many thousands of women and children, wounding far more and making hundreds of thousands homeless. But is this true? It is NOT. The falsification by the media is something quite frightening. Thankfully at least two reliable reports have now been printed that show the enormity of the slander against Israel. Exaggeration ten and a hundred times might not be important in some matters but it is here. The first of the two accounts is a nine page report in the American magazine ‘*The New Republic*’, August 2nd 1982, headed ‘*Lebanon Eyewitness*’, by Martin Peretz; and the other report was in the *Jerusalem Post*, October 31st, 1982, by Colonel Trevor N. Dupuy entitled “*The Big Lebanese Lie*”. He is an accepted military historian who has written some 80 books on military history. Here are some revealing quotations of what Col. Dupuy said:

“Well, on that day (bombing of West Beirut, August 12th) I spent about five hours observing this bombardment. During the time, it was apparent from my observation that no more than 150 bombs, probably 200 to 500 kilograms each, were dropped on Beirut. As far as artillery bombardment was concerned, in the many Israeli positions I visited in and around East Beirut, I saw fewer shell bursts than bomb explosions during the time I was there. . .”

Col. Dupuy then expressed how he was astonished to see the next

day or two, American papers giving figures of 44,000 bombs dropped and 700 houses collapsed (in the International Herald Tribune); and 1,600 bombs and rockets dropped and 42,000 shells fired (in the Washington Post). After some detailed analysis Col. Dupuy concludes: "But I stick to my on-the-spot observation that the actual intensity was . . . less than one-hundredth of the reported intensity".

Col. Dupuy then turns to a report in the New York Times in the first few days of the war, that Nabatiye and Sidon were destroyed. Quoting:

"When I drove through Nabatiye in mid-August there were few signs of war damage. When I approached Sidon, I expected to see a ghost town with remnants of houses and rubble everywhere. After driving all through the city, I found some five blocks in the centre totally destroyed, and a number of houses along a 200 metre stretch of the waterfront seriously damaged. I estimate that this amounted to about 5 percent of the city's dwellings. . . . The city was teeming with life, with thousands of people shopping at stores full of goods. Movie theatres were open and the traffic was worse than a New York rush hour. . . ."

"By focussing their television cameras exclusively on selected destroyed buildings, without showing the untouched neighbouring structures in the same street, the electronic journalists dramatically exaggerated the degree of devastation and failed to beam a balanced and comprehensive coverage."

Dupuy said he was appalled by "the falsification and distortion of historical facts by those who know better". Such is the anti-Jewish streak in so many people, and the demand for the sensational instead of truth.

The report in the New Republic was written at the beginning of August, and it is mostly concerned with Tyre and Sidon, before the attack on West Beirut. Its account runs parallel with that of Col. Dupuy. Regarding casualties it has two lengthy paragraphs. First it sums up the generally received number of casualties as 10,000 dead — papers reporting as their authority the UNICEF and the Red Cross. When approached both denied giving any such figures. . . . Instead of these frightening figures the Red Cross provided figures for Tyre as 47 dead and 247 wounded. The Israeli estimate was a little larger, between 57 and 63 dead. For Sidon they gave a figure of 250, and for Nabatiye of ten civilians dead and one wounded. One gasps at the terrible distortion of the truth.

In a later paragraph the report takes up an item from the Christian Science Monitor. It had alleged in one issue that 500 people in Palestinian refugee camps and Lebanese villages had been killed in the previous month by the Israelis (not thousands!) A fortnight later the paper published a correction. "It stated that 100, not 500, had been killed from May 25th to June 25th, and of these about 90 resulted

from Syrian shelling, about 10 from Israeli attack". So the paper confesses, not 500 but 10.

CONCERN FOR CIVILIANS

Far from the Israeli army being indifferent to the fate of unfortunate civilians who may happen to be in the way, they have the highest standard of restraint and care of any army in the world. Their professional code has the name in Hebrew '*tohar haneshek*', which has been translated into English as 'purity of arms', 'morality of arms'. This code goes back to the 1930's and it established "clear and self-denying rules about what was militarily permissible. Zionism then was an intensely ideological movement measuring its successes against scrupulous moral standards".

From the evidence of a variety of writers, this moral code was fully kept in the Lebanon war. Thus the writer in 'Lebanon Eyewitness':

"All wars hurt, but some wars are conducted differently from others — yes, more humanely, and to more humane purpose. This I argue, this I saw with my own eyes, is Israel's war in Lebanon."

The military historian Col. Dupuy said the same thing:

"War has always been a bloody, destructive affair. It produces casualties, suffering and distress. But what was unusual in this particular war was, as the many Lebanese with whom I talked emphasised, that the Israelis seem to have sincerely tried to keep destruction and bloodshed to a minimum and succeeded in doing so, scrupulously endeavouring to relate all their actions to legitimate military targets. I saw Israeli leaflets, and heard from local people, of warning announcements by loudspeakers before Israelis initiated attacks in civilian areas. The result, of course, was not only to permit non-combatants to take refuge, but also to alert defending Arab forces, thereby increasing the likelihood of Israeli casualties."

The New Republic article enlarges on this and says that in both Tyre and Sidon "hours before the Israeli attack, leaflets had been dropped calling on the inhabitants to flee to the beaches, which would be guaranteed by the Israelis as open or war-free zones". It is estimated that 10,000 or more did do this and were safe.

Professor Moshe Sharon, professor at the Hebrew University writes:

"There has never been an army in the history of wars which has behaved in a more humane, moral, and sensitive way than the Israeli Defence Forces. The reports about the behaviour of Israeli troops would sound like fairy tales had they not been documented. Army units distributed their rations to the Lebanese civilians, a whole armoured column stopped under fire to save the life of a lost wounded baby. These are only a few examples of the extraordinary moral code of behaviour followed by Israel's armed forces. The soldiers endangered — sometimes sacrificed — their own lives in order to ensure the respect and safety of the civilian population. . . ."

“ The humane nature and honorable behaviour of Israel’s army have been exploited by the P.L.O. They sent 12 year-old boys with rocket-propelled grenades against Israeli armour, knowing full well the Israeli soldiers do not shoot children. . . P.L.O. killers hid behind rows of women and children when firing on Israeli forces, knowing full well they could have no safer shield against Israeli fighters”.

Finally, the concern of Israel extended beyond the actual fighting. An extensive article soon after the war started was entitled “Massive Israel Effort to help the Lebanese”. It began:

“ Israelis opened their hearts — and their pocket books — to help the civilian population in Lebanon, as a massive aid campaign involving government agencies and private groups, got under way last week. Sixty doctors, paramedics and other volunteers on a Magen David convoy to South Lebanon began giving medical care in Tyre and Sidon on Thursday. . . . Meanwhile, tons of blankets and clothes have been piling up at the MDA’s 46 stations throughout the country. Often entire families arrive at their local MDA station, each member carrying parcels of clothes for adults and children, woollen hats and blankets in excellent condition” (*J.P. 20.6.82*).

At the time of writing, an Israeli judicial enquiry into Israel’s responsibility for the massacres in Beirut by the Phalangist christians is still in session. It is clear enough that the Israeli military were anxious to get rid of the remaining 2,000 or more P.L.O. terrorists in the camps. Also they would not be willing to go into the camps themselves because of the outcry this would produce. So without doubt, when the Lebanese army refused to do the job, they agreed that the Phalangists should go in. Knowing the Jewish temperament, they would feel rather indifferent to what the christians did. The other important factor is that it happened when the Jews were engaged in the most religious days of the year, including the Day of Atonement; such as **Begin** were occupied with other than military matters. For the rest we must await the enquiry report. The heads of the government have been warned that they will be criticised in the report.

It is not held against Israel that they deliberately supported the massacres, but that they were slow and indifferent in stopping them.

CHRISTADELPHIANS AND ISRAEL

This detailed ‘defence’ of Israel is presented because important matters for ourselves are involved. This will not be the last time that the world falsely accuses Israel and blackens her name. (Even the Protocols of Zion are still being printed and circulated in various countries). Have we courage and conviction to stand up for ‘our’ nation? The Watchman leaflet “Watch Israel” perceived the challenge:

“How are we to witness to God’s purpose with the Jews in an age when opinions are hardening against them. The day may come when we shall risk the wrath of church and state in proclaiming these things of which we are convinced”.

'These things of which we are convinced'. Perhaps there is some uncertainty about that phrase. How many Christadelphians regard Israel as their nation? See themselves as aliens in Britain and adopted into Israel? True, the nation of Israel today is not under covenant to God. Nevertheless, as Ezekiel 38 says, before they are reconciled, they are still "my people of Israel" — verse 16. When they are still scattered in latter day 'Babylon', God describes them as 'the apple of his eye': "After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye" (Zech. 2:8). Jeremiah declares on behalf of God, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love" (31:3). At the birth of the nation God declared: "And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them: for I am the LORD (Yahweh) their God" (Lev. 26:44). Therefore faithful 'princes of Israel' today will pray like Daniel of old for the sins of the nation, and for the merciful and good hand of God to redeem them from their present iniquity (Dan. 9).

So it will be a test of our faith and understanding, whether we stand up for Israel now and in the future. We have heard, sadly, of one ecclesia where there was talk of stopping the Jewish Relief fund. It is hoped that this present essay on Israel has shown that we must not be taken in by the media, and at least suspend judgement. Even though the present behaviour be reprehensible, we must stand up for what the nation will become in the near future. The God of Israel will redeem His people for His holy name's sake. And even now signs of a movement to better things can be seen — see chapter 3.

In Israel's wars, as with Britain's, we neither support nor object. In their wars they are not under divine censure, provided their purpose is not evil.

POPE—LEBANON—JERUSALEM

Lebanon today is a mosaic of mixed religions. Five regions could be identified in this small country, based on differing mixtures of religion. The religions are Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic (Maronites and Phalangists), Sunni Moslems, and Shi'a Moslems. The current president Amir Gemayel is a Jesuit-educated lawyer, businessman and politician. He recently had a private audience with the Pope. Asked afterward "whether the Pontiff had been invited to visit Lebanon — 'he does not need to be invited home' Mr. Gemeyal had said at the airport" (*Daily Telegraph* 21.10.82).

In view of this one might suppose that the Pope would be opposed to the P.L.O. who have ravaged Lebanon and murdered and ill-treated the population for some six years. But the Vatican does not get

upset about such matters when pursuing larger policies. What the larger policy in this case is, was indicated in an article in McLean's Magazine, January 1982, with the heading "The Pope's P.L.O. Connection". Referring to the deep concern of Jewish leaders regarding the Pope's sympathies, it said:

"Pope John Paul II has made the Palestinian problem a priority of his papacy. Not only that, the pontiff is personally directing a shift in policy and opening a discreet dialogue with Palestinian officials."

In this matter it is useful to bear in mind what perhaps is surprising, that "35% of the P.L.O. members are Christian. . . there are Christians, many of them Catholics, in leadership positions in all eight factions of the guerilla movement".

The article describes the careful build-up to the Arafat-Pope meeting that took place this year:

"It began with an exchange of letters in 1979, followed later that year by a low-profile meeting, during the pontiff's visit to Turkey, with the P.L.O. representative Abu Faras. . . In 1980, a key Arafat aide, Afif Sufieh, who is a Catholic, delivered an invitation to the Pope from his Moslem boss to lead the Palestinians back to their homeland in the event of a settlement. Wrote Arafat, in his flowery but concise manner: 'Please permit me to dream that I am seeing you going to Palestine and Jerusalem surrounded by returning Palestinian refugees carrying olive branches and spreading them at your feet.' The two men now exchange courtesies on holy days. Arafat sent the Pope a Christmas card, and the Palestinians said they received a papal greeting on the occasion of the Prophet Mohammed's birthday".

Note the vital word 'Jerusalem'. The next step was a meeting in the Spring of 1981 between P.L.O. 'Foreign Minister' Farouk Kaddoumi and the Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Cassaroli. Kaddoumi claimed that the Vatican expressed 'solidarity' with the P.L.O. cause. The Arafat-Pope meeting took place on September 15th, 1982. A writer in the Jerusalem Post (a Roman Catholic!) said:

"I silently cried in disbelief, if not desperation. And the frightening spectacle of the white-garbed Roman pontiff shaking hands with the grinning uniformed leader has haunted me since".

That writer thought it was all a tragic error. Even the Daily Telegraph editorial, normally pro-Catholic, under the remarkable heading "Rome and Jerusalem" criticised the Pope's action as a serious mistake. Obviously these people do not appreciate the schemings of the Pope.

The Pope has publicly on more than one occasion expressed his sympathies with the Palestinians, and criticised Israel for their behaviour. Why does he support the setting up of a Palestinian state in the West Bank? In general it is his policy to create friendly links with the Moslems. But more important, he is interested in the P.L.O. and a Palestinian state, because it is proposed that eastern Jerusalem, which

Israel took from Jordan in 1967, should be the capital of the Palestinian state. Controlling influence in Jerusalem is the key to the Pope's policy. Perhaps the editor of the Daily Telegraph appreciated this when he used the heading, "Rome and Jerusalem". This matter will grow. *"I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people"*.

It must not be forgotten that President Reagan, and President Carter before him, are much under the influence of Rome, and are influenced by Catholic advisors. (More details are given in the chapter on the Pope and Poland).

Chapter 2: CONSEQUENCES OF THE LEBANON WAR

PROFOUND CHANGES IN THE ARAB WORLD

We have already mentioned the impressive performance of the Israeli military machine. 'Impressive' is an understatement. Israel is now classed as the third military superpower after the U.S. and the Soviet. This was the expression of Dean Brown, director of the U.S. Middle East Institute in Washington —

" Israel is now the third military superpower after America and the Soviet Union. It has 3,400 tanks — more than France, Italy and Germany have together. . . plus 900 Soviet-made tanks seized from the Arabs. Its air-force superiority is evident and its superiority in the electronics (industry) is undisputed" (*J.P.* 6.7.82).

Although the bulk of their military equipment is American, its effectiveness has been enhanced by Israeli 'accessories'. These are considered of great value, and America hopes to be told about them. They were commended by U.S. Official Joseph Churba, head of the U.S.-based Centre for International Security in these terms:

" Were Israel's technological innovations and tactics grafted on to our own capability, it is conceivable that the United States and the West could neutralise Soviet supremacy on the central front by conventional means alone, reducing the need for tactical nuclear weapons in Europe".

The Israeli 'innovations' are largely in the field of electronics, providing detailed control and integration of fields of action by radar-computer devices; also devices for putting out of action the enemies' electronic equipment, radar capable of tracking 230 planes at once, and a computer that can instantaneously compute 15 interception solutions. Their own-design tank, the 'Merkavah' had its first battle test, and was shown to be more than a match for the latest T-72 Soviet tank. They also have their own fighter, the Kfir, the Reshef gunboat, and the Gabriel naval surface-to-surface missile. Complementing their technical innovations, it was observed that there was a higher standard of professionalism, army discipline, and efficiency, than previously.

These matters are reported, not to find pleasure in Israel's abilities, but to bring home the profound effect this war has had on the surrounding Arab nations. The Arab nations are afraid of Israel. They are moving nearer to accepting Israel and negotiating with her. The Daily Telegraph editorial, under the heading "Israel's Iron Fist" declared:

" Israel has emerged from the Lebanon campaign as the dominant military power in the Middle East. The Arab States have been dealt a shattering

blow by the expulsion of the P.L.O. from Lebanon”.

The Jerusalem Post reported a U.S. professor, Dr. William Griffith, under the heading “Arab World in a State of Shock and Humiliation”, with declaring:

“The overwhelming Israeli military victory in Lebanon, and the Iranian victory, has left the Arab world humiliated and a prey to accelerating Islamic fundamentalism” (*J.P. 27.6.82*).

The opening paragraph of a Guardian Weekly article read as follows:

“The political landscape in the Middle East looks as if it has been struck by an earthquake. Familiar terrain has changed and old landmarks have disappeared. Even the Arabs appear newcomers in this strange land. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June was the starting point for a regional upheaval that is still rumbling on. Curiously Jerusalem still does not seem to grasp the political changes that are taking place in the Arab camp as a result of its imperial adventure in Lebanon” (*G.W. 24.10.82*).

THE U.S. PEACE INITIATIVE

These matters have a strong bearing on the U.S. Peace Plan launched by President Reagan in a nationally televised broadcast on September 1st. The previous U.S. peace proposals last year had not got off the ground, because the P.L.O. made themselves the leaders of the Palestinians in the West Bank, and Israel resolutely refused to negotiate with the P.L.O. Moreover, Jordan, occupying the East Bank had held back from negotiating with Israel over the matter while the P.L.O. were dominant.

The U.S. had tried to win Jordanian support all last year. This year it made further efforts by bringing Jordan up to the status of Saudia Arabia (much to Israel's disappointment), agreeing to supply sophisticated new American weapons that modern warfare requires. With the influence of the P.L.O. greatly weakened by the Lebanon war, Jordan was willing to co-operate in the U.S. Peace Plan. A few days after Reagan's speech, the Daily Telegraph ran the headline “Jordan is America's Main Hope in Mid-East Initiative”:

“Jordan has emerged as the United States' main hope of pushing ahead with the Middle East peace initiative unveiled by President Reagan on Wednesday. There were reports yesterday that King Hussein was appraised of the proposals last week, before the Israelis knew about them. He then made a secret visit to Saudi Arabia, after which he signalled to American diplomats that the Reagan guidelines might have a chance with the moderate Arab States. The belief in Washington is that if King Hussein can be drawn into the peace negotiations, the Israeli Government will be forced by public opinion in both the United States and Israel itself to be more flexible”.

So it came about a few weeks later that Arafat, conscious of his weak position, met Hussein. His position was weakened not

only by military defeat, but because of the absence of real support from the Arab countries during the fighting. The article from the Guardian already quoted, continues the story:

“ At this point the chairman of the P.L.O., Yasser Arafat, who had been circling the Arab world since his enforced departure from Beirut at the end of August, made his move. For a man whose political past has been characterised by undue caution, Arafat showed new-found resolve in going to the heart of the problem. Arriving in Jordan last weekend he did what the Israeli invasion had inadvertently freed him to do: conduct negotiations with King Hussein on how a West Bank Palestinian State could be associated with the Hashemite monarchy to the satisfaction of the Americans. . .

“ This is the crux of the compromise settlement to which the Arabs, the Europeans and the United States are moving. Once Washington is sure that a satisfactory federal arrangement can be reached between a Palestinian homeland on the West Bank and Jordan, then there is real hope that the occupied territory can be made available in negotiations with a future Labour government in Jerusalem. The Labour Party leader, Simon Peres, has already said that the American plan is a ‘realistic basis for negotiation’ and his party has always backed the idea of exchanging territory for an overall guaranteed peace” (*G.W. 24.10.82*).

Because of the rapid progress of settlement in the West Bank by the Israelis (roads, modern amenities, schools, etc.), Hussein has warned the Arab States that if they do not negotiate now, there will be nothing left to negotiate:

“ Palestinians and Jordanians are impelled by a new sense of urgency in the face of Israel’s massive, rapid and energetic settlement programme in the West Bank and Gaza” (*J.P. 14.11.82*).

King Hussein’s readiness to negotiate was also expressed in this article:

“ Meanwhile, the king himself has spoken out twice (on British television) on his recognition of Israel, his desire to make peace, his readiness to contemplate formal relations with the Jewish State.”

Recently, the article says, there have been frequent comings and goings between West Bank leaders, Jordan and the Israel Labour party. Reagan’s plan concedes to Israel that there will not be an independent Palestinian State on the West Bank of Jordan; that Israel shall have some territory on the West Bank, and some military control of the region. But he insists on a real homeland (echoes of the British mandate) for the Palestinians on the West Bank, with democratic self-government, and in some way tied to the Palestinian East Bank of the kingdom of Jordan — so that they may have security in relation to Israel. “It is the firm view of the United States that self-government by the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza in association with Jordan, offers the best chance of a durable, just and lasting peace” said Reagan. His Plan involves the Arab States accepting the reality of Israel, and that the pre-1967 boundary, which reduced Israel’s ter-

ritory to a narrow neck in the middle (see map) is not realistic for Israel's security. The President assured Israel that America's commitment to her security was 'iron-clad'.

The fact that Saudi Arabia is acquiescing in the Plan is of major importance, because Saudi Arabia wields such great influence by her large financial hand-outs. Syria, strongly anti-Israel, is much dependent on Saudi largesse. A change in Saudi rulership during the year may be helpful to a peace settlement. When king Khaled died in June he was succeeded by one of his brothers, Prince Fahd. Fahd is a more westernised man, and "is more committed to America than his brothers".

At the time of writing a new factor has arisen in Israel which may aid the peace process. Prime Minister Begin's wife has died; and it is conjectured he might retire from the premiership; he was so dependent on her help and support. Additionally, he has said that if the massacre enquiry criticises him he will call a general election. If he did, the Labour party might well gain power. As we have already said, Peres is ready to negotiate for peace, as he said in the Washington Post article "Why Israel's Labour Party Accepts the Reagan Plan". A swing in his direction by the electorate can be expected. The present mood in Israel, after the unhappy events of the Lebanon war, is to recognise that military victory does not enforce peace, and a time must come for negotiations.

THE SOVIET POSITION

Still another factor arising from the Lebanon war that may favour a peace situation is the impact of the war on the Soviet. Moscow generally has acted cautiously in her expansionist moves so as to avoid direct confrontation. Apart from the invasion of Afghanistan, she has always worked indirectly, giving support to other countries. In the Middle East, Syria had become her 'friend', together with the P.L.O. more recently. Yet in the recent Lebanon war the Soviet seems to have done nothing substantial to help Syria. In effect, in the defeat of Syria and the P.L.O. she allowed herself to be defeated. The Soviet have lost standing with the Arab peoples. Her best equipment did not stand up to the Israeli attack, and she has lost vast quantities of material. What does it all mean? Perhaps it all happened too quickly. Probably in pursuing her usual policy of avoiding direct involvement she has to accept the fortunes of war, and this time she was on the losing side. Whatever may be the reason or reasons, it has resulted in the Soviet becoming still less effective in the Middle East. So now she is most anxious to regain her influence. As one would expect she is increasing her support for Syria:

"Israeli Government sources yesterday expressed concern at the massive increase in the number of Russian military advisers and new

arms shipments to Syria. Since the outbreak of the war in Lebanon in June the number of Soviet military advisers in Syria has increased by 50 per cent, the sources added. Israel is also alarmed by reports that the first visit abroad of Mr. Yuri Andropov, the new Soviet leader, will be to Damascus, underlining the importance attached to increasing Soviet influence in the Middle East" (*D.T. 20.11.82*).

But there is another angle on the situation. The Daily Telegraph, September 15th, had the headline:

" MOSCOW AIMING TO RENEW LINKS WITH ISRAEL, SAYS U.S.: The Reagan Administration believes the Kremlin is seeking to re-establish relations with Israel in order to enhance its influence in the Middle East. . . . It might be that Moscow wanted to restore relations because unless they do, they will not be able to play any role in Middle East negotiations or Middle East politics altogether".

We may recall this was the situation in 1948, when the Soviet promptly followed the U.S. in recognising the legality of the State of Israel.

The U.S. may be willing to allow the Soviet to join the negotiations. Whereas the 'moderate' Arab States seem ready to go along with President Reagan's plans, there are still the 'rejectionist' States — Syria, Libya, and Iraq. It would need the Soviets to 'persuade' these States to accept the negotiations. If the Russian military intention is to over-run West Europe in the future, as we think she will, then it would be a sound move for the Soviet Union to make her southern flank safe by agreeing to some 'peace' or neutrality there, before moving in Europe.

So with all these interweaving threads in the events concerning Israel, we watch to see whether the peace of Ezekiel chapter 38 is on the horizon.

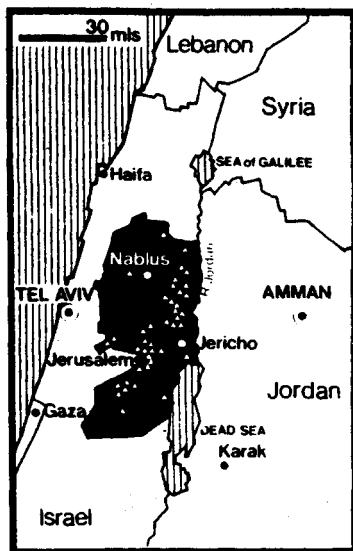
ISRAEL AND THE WEST BANK

A general world outcry continues because Israel presses on with new settlements in the West Bank region of the Jordan, called by Mr. Begin, 'Judea and Samaria', a large region much greater than the phrase "West Bank" suggests. Apart from Biblical considerations, has Israel any claim to the West Bank? The answer is not particularly complex. Israel bases her claim on the Balfour Declaration of 1917 and the British Mandate of 1920. These are the essential facts:

1. In 1917 the British army freed Palestine and the other Arab lands from Turkish domination. So Britain should have the main say in what happened to Palestine.
2. After the war the League of Nations 'authorised' the various mandates in the region: Syria, Lebanon and Iraq were supervised by France; Transjordan and Palestine by Britain. Thus there was international confirmation of the Balfour Declaration that Palestine was for the Jews. The whole region — all west of the river Jordan,

and Transjordan — was called 'Palestine' at the time of the mandate. The region on the map outlined with a black line was "The Palestine Mandate, granted to Britain at the San Remo Conference in 1920, as the region of a Jewish National Home." (Martin Gilbert, pg. 10, "The Arab-Israel Conflict", 1974). Regarding the shaded area it was "Separated from Palestine by Britain in 1921, and given to the Emir Abdullah. Named Transjordan, this territory was at once closed to Jewish Settlement" (M. Gilbert). So it is clear that all west of the Jordan was for the Jews.

3. When the Arabs attacked the Jews at the setting up of the State of Israel in 1948, Transjordan managed to annex the West Bank region. This was illegal and only Britain and Pakistan recognised the annexation.
4. In 1967 Israel was fighting on two fronts to defend herself against the joint attacks of Egypt and Syria. Israel in her extremity tried



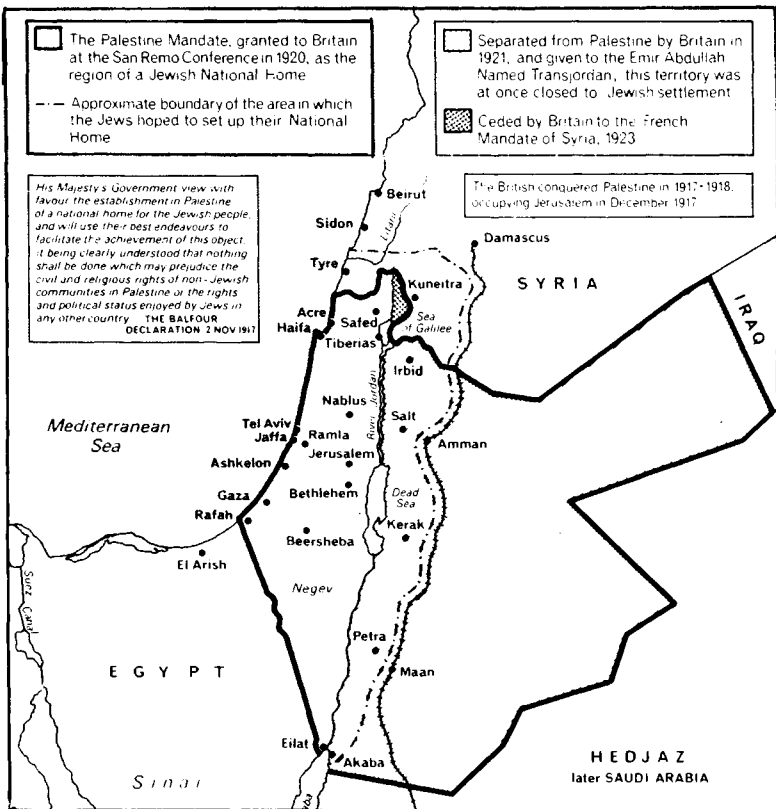
Jewish Settlements in the West Bank.

hard to persuade Jordan to keep out. When it appeared that Israel was losing, Jordan attacked—truly "a stab in the back". Israel counter-attacked and pushed Jordan out of the West Bank.

5. So Israel claims its right to the West Bank from the mandate and from conquest in a war initiated by Jordan.
6. The claim that justice demands the Palestinians should have a homeland in the West Bank is not substantial. There has been a Palestinian homeland for many years: Jordan has been the main Arab Palestinian homeland since 1921, and Israel has been the Jewish Palestinian homeland.
7. In the Camp David Accords, Mr. Begin agreed that the Arabs in the West Bank should have domestic autonomy, but not become a sovereign State. He insisted that for national security Israel must have a military supervision of the region. Israel's position on autonomy was set out in an official document of eight sections in February, 1982. It grants them full autonomy to conduct their own affairs under a democratically elected Administrative Council.

They would control Justice, Finance, Agriculture, Labour. Housing and Transport, Industry and Commerce, Religious affairs. Section 8 reads in part: "Following the elections and the establishment of the self-governing authority (administrative council), the military government and its civilian administration will be withdrawn, a withdrawal of Israeli armed forces will take place, and there will be a redeployment of the remaining Israeli forces into specified security locations."

This appears very reasonable, and does not seem to clash with what President Reagan has proposed. If the P.L.O. are eliminated from the negotiations, one would think Begin himself could carry on the negotiations.



Regarding the Jewish 'settlements', these are not like the pioneering kibbutz of earlier days. They are permanent small townships, such as have been built in Britain since the war. Here is a brief description of a new town alongside Jericho:

" Four miles out of Jerusalem, past the trees and churches on the Mount

of Olives and the stone houses of Arab Bethany, where the winding road straightens and dips steeply down to Jericho and the Dead Sea, a new city has grown up in the desert. You cannot miss it. No ordinary settlement this, with tents, barbed wire and the odd hut or caravan. Ma'ale Adumim, whose spanking new houses, flats and villas straddle a dusty ridge above the ruins of the inn of the good samaritan is the new face of Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank. . . Wide roads snake across the escarpment to join a new super-highway that will cut the journey to Jerusalem by half and bypass Bethany and other Arab suburbs on the way. A huge mound of rich black earth, dark against the yellow sand awaits the landscape gardeners. The government is laying on power, water and telephone lines. The land is free".

Chapter 3: ISRAEL: AN AWAKENING MORAL CONSCIENCE

We now look at a further consequence of the Lebanon war. There have been noticeably more articles on a moral and religious plane in the Jerusalem Post this year. In part this arises from the agonising appraisal of the Lebanon war; but it is a mood that has been growing over the years.

A change may be said to have started after the 1967 war. In the Six-Day War Israel successfully dealt with enemies on three fronts at once and conquered much territory. After 2,000 years of persecution and submission to tyranny, here was a new phenomenon — their own strength. The initial rejoicing in this new power gradually subsided as they found it did not bring the good they hope for. Was life always to be one of uncertainty and conflict, maintaining the nation by superior strength? Is a war for national security like that in Lebanon morally right? Is there no danger of using power corruptly? Are the moral standards of the Zionist movement being forgotten? Is the nation — the people of God, the moral light of the world — losing its way and getting submerged by false concepts? Such is the present questioning.

There are three major articles worth quoting from, to illustrate that there are influences at work moving the nation on an upward moral path. First, in line with these questions, there is an article by Dr. Hartman, an Orthodox rabbi and professor at the Hebrew university. Here are some extracts:

“ The Biblical Jew of the twentieth century is not afraid of acquiring power. But however important power is for our survival, we misunderstand and distort the significance of our return to nationhood if we do not seek to integrate power with moral responsibility. Just as modern technology can be either a blessing or a curse so too can all forms of power be utilized either for enhancing or destroying the dignity of man. Reborn Israel has returned to the framework of biblical spirituality where 'kings' are responsible to the moral understanding of the prophetic vision of history. In a biblical land, political leaders must be fully conscious of the dangers of idolizing power.

“ The rebirth of Israel affords us the opportunity of building a society which demonstrates how power and moral responsibility are compatible and require each other. From a biblical perspective, there is nothing more noble than a human being or a nation that combines power with compassion and responsibility towards the stranger and the weak. Judaism does not teach us that weakness is a necessary condition for moral sensitivity.

“ The prophet's aspiration for justice and the biblical challenge that Israel become a holy people were meant to be realised in a Judaic national political reality. . . . In spite of the cynical use of oil power in the world, we

must never give up our hope that political consideration will be infused with the moral pathos of the prophets. This must be the burden of a people tied to a land which breathes the spirit of the biblical covenant" (*J.P. Feb. 1982*).

The second article was written at the Jewish Passover, which approximately coincided with the final evacuation from Sinai, and the article meditates on the original leaving of Sinai for the Promised Land, and the present leaving of Sinai. It is by a rabbi, Dr. M. Lewittes. These are extracts:

- " We are bidden to learn many lessons from our ancient experience in Egypt. Primary among them is the knowledge that God took us out of Egypt for a dual purpose: to give us the Tora (the Law) and to bring us into the land He promised to the Patriarchs. Only in the Promised Land, Eretz Yisrael, the Land of Israel, can we fulfil all the mitzvot of the Torah and fulfill our destiny to be 'a kingdom of priests and a holy nation'. We must regard life in the Galut, in Exile, as an abnormal condition. . .
- " We remember Egypt and our suffering to sharpen our sensitivity to suffering everywhere and enhance our sympathy for the stranger in our midst. 'Do not oppress the alien, for you know how it feels to be an alien; you were aliens yourselves in Egypt' (Ex. 23:9). 'Love the alien, for you once lived as aliens in Egypt' (Deut. 10:19).
- " Are these lessons applicable to our situation today, having established our sovereign state and witnessing what many call 'the beginning of the sprouting of our final Redemption'? An analysis of our contemporary Exodus, though it differs in many respects from its ancient counterpart, only confirms the present-day relevance of these lessons.
- " We must analyse more seriously and profoundly the fundamental **raison d'être** of the State of Israel. It is imperative that Israelis — and for that matter Jews everywhere — reflect upon our destiny and ponder our precarious situation. We should enquire: What does God require of us in order to achieve true and lasting peace? Is it the kind of society that we have allowed to develop in Israel that is keeping us back from the goals that Zionism set out to attain — an exemplary society for all nations to admire and strive to emulate? Are we abandoning Sinai and leaving behind the teachings of Sinai?
- " The time has come when the history of our times must be seen in its proper perspective. We must not only recall the past but also recognize the significance of the present and the promise it holds for the future. The withdrawal from Sinai, seen in the perspective of Jewish history, is an episode in a long chronicle that has always pointed to an exalted goal, the creation of a society that will be 'a light unto the nations' through its translation of the Prophetic ideals into the daily routine of our lives.
- " If in recent years we have lost sight of that goal, now is the occasion and opportunity to redirect our vision and continue our national development on the soil of the Holy Land with a new sense of dedication. The means to achieve this goal is through the proper education of our youth, making them aware of the divine purpose of the Jewish people's Redemption. Then will it come to pass that (Isa. 54:13) 'All your children shall be taught of God, and your children shall enjoy great prosperity' ".

That this and other articles of a similar nature are printed in the Jerusalem Post, which used to be so indifferent to religion, is a matter of real significance. We know the 'final redemption' must await the return of Jesus Christ, but here certainly is a turning back to the Law

of Moses.

The third article which included the stirring drawing reproduced here, had the title “Auschwitz or Sinai?” It urged that Israel should forget the bitterness of the Hitler pogroms and concentrate on building a nation that displays God’s laws and seeks to guide the world in that direction. Extracts follow:

- “ In the 20th century we have become a traumatized nation. The ugly demonic forces of anti-Semitism have brutalized and horrified our sensibilities. We can never forget the destruction of millions of Jews in World War II. Many, therefore, justify and interpret the significance of our rebirth in terms of Jewish suffering and persecution.
- “ As much as I admire the dignity that comes with power and statehood and with freedom from the inconsistent and fragile goodwill of the nations of the world, it is a serious mistake to allow the trauma of Jewish suffering to be the exclusive frame of reference for understanding our national renaissance. Israel is not a response to modern anti-Semitism but is, above all, a modern expression of the eternal Sinai covenant that has shaped Jewish consciousness throughout the millennia. It wasn’t Hitler who brought us back to Zion, but rather a belief in the eternal validity of the Sinai covenant. One need not visit Yad Vashem in order to understand our love for Jerusalem. It is dangerous to our growth as a healthy people if the memory of Auschwitz becomes the new ‘Sinai’. The model of Sinai awakens the Jewish people to the awesome responsibility of becoming a holy people.
- “ At Sinai, we discover the absolute demand of God; we discover who we are by what we do. At Sinai, existence precedes essence. Sinai calls to action, to moral awakening, to living constantly with challenges of building a moral and just society which mirrors the kingdom of God in history. Sinai created humility and openness to the demands of self-transcendence. In this respect, it is the antithesis to the moral narcissism that can result from suffering and from viewing oneself as a victim.
- “ Immediately after the account of the revelation at Sinai, we are reminded of Israel’s unfaithfulness to the covenant in the vivid description of the Golden Calf incident. Sinai teaches us that there is no meaning to election without judgment — there are no privileges without demands.
- “ Sinai demands of the Jew that he believe in the possibility of integrating the moral seriousness of the prophet with the realism and political judgment of the statesman. Politics and morality were united when Israel was born as nation at Sinai. Sinai prohibits the Jewish people ever abandoning the effort of creating a shared moral language with the nations of the world.
- “ The rebirth of Israel can be viewed as a return to the fullness of the Sinai covenant — to Judaism as a way of life. The traditions and moral and spiritual aspirations were not meant to be realised in Sabbath sermons or by messianic dreamers who wait passively on the margins of society for redemption to miraculously break into history. Torah study is not a substitute for actual life, nor are prayer and synagogue escapes from the ambiguities and complexities of political life” (*David Hartman, J.P. 17.1.82*).

These three writers are addressing themselves to the Israelis in general, to those who would not call themselves religious, as well as to the formalists in religion, and the ‘dreamers’. For a newspaper to print



them reflects an awakening conscience concerning the moral standards of the Bible, a development that will be quickened when Elijah appears and turns them back to the Law of Moses, with the statutes and judgments (Mal.4:4).

The Religious political party in Israel is increasing its influence on the national life. The party only has a few members in parliament, but they are an essential part of Begin's coalition, to give him a majority. Though Begin himself does not appear to be a devout Jew, yet he is sufficiently in sympathy to allow the Religious party's demands to get through parliament. There was an article in the French *Le Monde* under the heading "Israel Subject To Growing Religious Pressure" which pointed out that 60 per cent of the population would be classed as non-practising Jews; nevertheless there is an increasing recognition that Judaism — the keeping of the sabbath, the feasts, and the standards of the Law — must have its place in a Jewish State (*G.W. 30.5.82*).

THE COMPLEXITY OF ISRAEL'S POLITICS

To complete this survey of Israeli life, it may be of interest to include an outline of the conflicting philosophies in Israel and how they influence the behaviour of the nation. First, there is the continuing conflict between the 'Zionists' and the 'Revisionists'. The latter are a much smaller group and hold a more extreme attitude regarding Israel's nationalism than the Zionists. Begin is the leader of the Revisionists. He was more or less a voice in the wilderness until the Israeli conquests of the 1967 war. Re-possessing Israel's national boundaries became an interest of more Israelis. In particular, the eastern Jews who came to Israel in the second wave of immigration in the early 1950's gave Begin their support. To understand this we must recognise the other broad division in Israel's people

The eastern Jews belong to the Sephardi sect, whereas the European Jews are known as Ashkenazim (it is the Hebrew for German). The two Jewish sects belong to two streams of Jewish life. The Ashkenazim have developed among the christian communities, especially those of western and middle Europe; the Sephardim have developed in Arabic surroundings, especially in Spain before the Catholic regime became dominant there. The Askhenazim pay more attention to the rabbinical writings (the Talmud) and their mystics; the Sephardim are closer to the Torah, the Law. The famous Maimonides who wrote a code of Jewish law, *Mishnah Torah*, was a Sephardi Jew.

In the last century the Ashkenazi Jews of Europe were much influenced by the French Revolution, which had brought them their freedom, and when they returned to Israel early this century their ideals were about social justice, democracy, egalitarianism,

combining this with an interest in the justice of Moses' laws, but having hardly any interest in the prophets and the promised Messiah. They came largely from the professional class—writers, doctors, teachers — and strange as it may sound in our ears, they became the Labour party in Israel's politics. They rather despised their Sephardi brethren.

The Sephardi Jews who flocked back to Israel in the 1950's were poor, not well educated, were generally religious, and had little interest in the Zionists' fine talk about socialism, etc. They came back to Israel in the spirit of the restoration promised by the prophets.

Now the remarkable thing that happened is that Mr. Begin, the Revisionist, the Ashkenazi Jew from Europe, has become the leader and champion of the Asian Sephardim. With their support he came to power in 1977, defeating the Labour party that had ruled Israel for 25 years. These Sephardi Jews readily fitted in with Begin's more extreme 'Revisionist' philosophy. They support his insistence on the West Bank being Israel's by historic right, what Begin calls Judea and Samaria. They are ready too, to support the religious progress of the nation, giving more attention to the Torah (Law). With their higher birth-rate they will soon be a majority in Israel. They are of an emotional temperament, and Begin's impassioned speeches carry them away. Having suffered for long centuries under the oppression of the Moslems, they also support Begin's hostility and distrust of the Arab nations. (Most of this information has been taken from an article in the *Guardian Weekly*, 15.8.82).

Mr. Begin's government has brought improvement to Israel. "Begin's appeal to many Israelis, fed up with the corruption scandals of the Rabin era (Labour government, GP), lies in his austerity. . . . His economic policy has spread the wealth across the state rather than to specific kibbutzim or other privileged minority as happened under the Socialists" (*D. T. 13.8.82*). His wife who has just died was a woman of great integrity and compassion.

Chapter 4: OTHER MIDDLE EAST MATTERS

SOVIET PROGRESS IN PERSIA (IRAN)

Two newspaper articles are of interest. First a report from Moscow:

“ MOSCOW OPTIMISM OVER RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN: Moscow, after months of trying to coax Iran into closer relationship with Russia, spoke yesterday of ‘great possibilities’ for friendship and mutual assistance between the two countries.

“ Iran’s religious government has become increasingly dependent on economic links with Russia as it has grown more isolated from former trading partners, notably the United States. Russia and Iran recently signed a protocol for accelerated economic and technical co-operation” (D.T. 10.3.82).

The other article reported information from an Iranian diplomat who defected to Britain. He said the Communist party and the K.G.B. were getting an increasing grip on the country. There are Communist training camps near the capital, Teheran:

“ Almost all the instructors were either members of the Tudeh, the Iranian Communist Party, or K.G.B. agents sent into Iran. ‘Hundreds of the K.G.B. men are now in Iran’, he claimed. Most of them are Farsi speakers from the Soviet provinces bordering Iran. Some have been infiltrated by clandestine means, others arrive as ‘technicians’ sent by Eastern bloc countries. . . ‘Eighty percent of the government is now under the control of the Communist party’, he declared” (D.T. 24.5.82).

PERMANENT OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN

Our interest particularly is in watching events that lead to Russia ‘occupying’ Persia — “*Persia, Ethiopia and Libya with them*”. The flanking of Persia on its eastern borders, when Afghanistan was invaded, was a big step to this end. The permanence of the grip of the Soviet on this country was shown in a report from Kabul with the heading: “Afghan Children Go To Russia For Indoctrination”. Here are some extracts:

“ In an effort to win the support of the Afghanistan people, the Kremlin has, over the past two years, embarked on a large-scale indoctrination programme. This covers almost all levels of the Government, the Army and the administration. Perhaps more importantly, it also covers teachers and children.

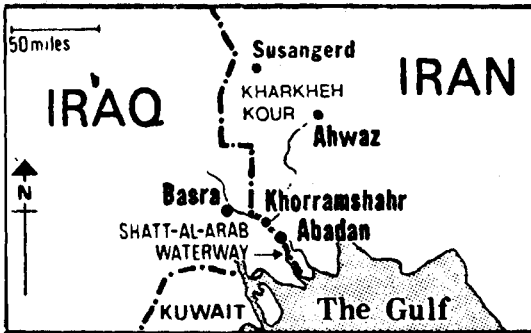
“ Thousands of Afghans from all levels and walks of life are regularly being taken on free trips to the Soviet Union. According to official statistics published in the Kabul New Times, at least 15,000 Afghan teachers, technicians, civil service personnel and school children were taken to the Soviet Union between 1980 and the end of 1981.

“ In Afghanistan itself Communist indoctrination courses have been introduced in most educational institutions. Afghan teachers, qualified as

Communist instructors, hold regular classes... Regular ideological lessons are now being introduced in all units of the Army, Air Force and police" (D.T. 11.12.82).

THE GULF WAR

The war between Iraq and Iran has been going on for over two years. It began in September, 1980. Because its focus is the region of the Gulf with its vital oil supplies, this war and its outcome is of more importance to the U.S. than the Lebanon war.



Iraq attacked Iran and was at first successful in getting control of the vital Shatt-Al-Arab waterway used by the oil tankers. The Iraq forces also pushed into Iran, threatening their oil fields. During much of 1981 there was a

lull in the fighting; and then this year Iran made a surprisingly vigorous counter-attack, driving out the Iraqi forces and re-taking the vital town of Khorramshahr on the waterway. A drive into Iraq was expected, but this has not taken place.

The success of Iran has alarmed Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, and especially the U.S. "Washington's worried attention has shifted from Lebanon to the Gulf region, considered far more 'vital' for Western interests" (G.W. 25.7.82).

The fear is that Iran, still active in its revolutionary religious ferment, will create unrest in eastern Saudi Arabia with the possible toppling of the conservative kingdom. This is possible because the eastern part of Saudi Arabia and the south of Iraq are predominantly Shi'ite Moslems, the same as the Iranian Moslems. The rulership in Saudi Arabia and Iraq are Sunni Moslems. Saudi Arabia has good reason to want a stable Iraq and a weak Iran. It had backed Iraq in the war with \$22 billion in 1981! When Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States saw that Iraq was losing, they urged the end of the war. Israel prefers an Iran victory, because this keeps Iraq, her implacable enemy, weak.

It is an interesting speculation as to what part the Soviet played in starting the war. The Soviet has supplied arms to Iraq; it has certainly been behind Iran and probably was the guiding hand in the reversal of the military position this year. It would not be surprising that, behind the scenes, it has backed both sides. In her interest to de-stabilise the Gulf region, a war between Iraq and Iran focussing towards the Gulf,

could be turned to advantage whatever the sequence of events.

One effect of the Iranian victory has been to the U.S. advantage. With Saudi Arabia feeling vulnerable to the Iran/Soviet intrigue to stir up religious unrest, she feels more dependent on the U.S. Early in the year she committed herself to formal military co-operation with the U.S.:

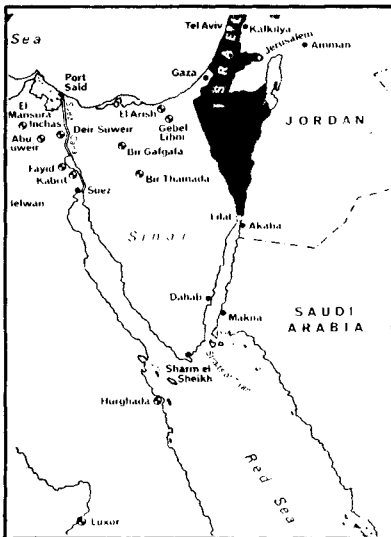
“ U.S. AND SAUDIS STRENGTHEN DEFENCE TIES: The United States strengthened its defence ties with Saudi Arabia yesterday with the establishment of a joint military commission. . . The committee would be headed by the two defence chiefs and would alternate annual meetings in Saudi Arabia and the United States. Washington has been trying since 1974 to set up this framework to deal with a possible military threat to Saudi Arabia” (*D.T. 10.2.82*).

The Reagan administration has made an explicit commitment to protect the House of Saud against internal and external foes.

MORE AMERICAN BASES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

“ MOROCCO AIR BASE FOR U.S.: American troops of the Rapid Deployment Force will have the use of an air base in Morocco under an agreemtn that is expected to be signed in Washington this week. At the same time, the Reagan Administration has agreed to a 110 million pounds plan to help Morocco improve food production” (*D.T. 24.5.82*).

The Rapid Deployment Force scheme is that bases are not normally manned, but that the bases are equipped ready for U.S. forces to move in quickly in an emergency.



More important than the Morocco base is the agreement over the Straits of Tiran at the entry to the Red Sea. This is a vital point for Israel, and if in enemy hands would blockade the sea approaches to south Israel. The Straits are controlled by two islands, Sanatis and Tiran. They are strategically placed just outside the Gulf of Aquaba and belong to Saudi Arabia. The Saudis leased them to Egypt in 1950. They were captured by the Israelis in 1967. With the evacuation of Sinai there was the fear that the islands would get into the hands of Saudi Arabia. A ‘satisfactory’ solution was

announced at the beginning of the year. Egypt had agreed that they should be included in a zone to be policed by Egypt under the supervision of the multinational Sinai force. Sharm el Sheikh is strategically placed at the southern tip of the Sinai peninsula, and overlooks the straits and the islands. The article revealed that an American contingent would be stationed at Sharm el Sheikh. The U.S. could not hope for a better arrangement! (*D.T. 19.1.82*).

PREPARATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST FOR THE KINGDOM

Watchmen on "the walls of Jerusalem" continue to look at Israel and ponder how events will lead to the day when Israel is established in righteousness and peace under her Redeemer. What will be the situation for the surrounding nations? They are to be subject to Israel, and also blessed with her: "*Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance*" (Isa. 19:25) shows the pattern of things.

One region is particularly interesting to us — the stretch of country from Israel's east border through Jordan south eastwards across Saudi Arabia to the Gulf. It is probable that much of this region will be included in the twelve cantons of Israel. This is on the basis that the 'East Sea' (Ez. 47:18) is the Gulf. The peoples of this region will be enlightened, obedient and blessed. They have been regarded mostly as a wild nomadic people in the past. It is interesting to follow how 'civilisation' is moving into all the countries of the region, bringing that essential ingredient of education and literacy. With education comes all the other amenities of schools, hospitals, electricity, roads, industry, modernised agriculture. The people are being brought to a situation where they can be given Divine instruction.

With this thought in mind, it is of interest to note how rapidly these countries are moving into the 20th century. What we have become used to in the land of Israel is now occurring in these other countries of the Middle East. Here are a few notes on several of the countries.

Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia is in its third Development Plan (1980-85). In this plan the government is putting large sums into Agriculture, and a lending bank has been created — Saudi Arabian Agricultural Bank (SAAB). Grants can run into millions of pounds, and there is no interest payable. There are generous subsidies on food production, and there is a guaranteed price for the main crops.

"Farming is highly mechanised, technically advanced and not at all labour intensive. Saudi Arabia has the biggest dairy farm in the world. . . It has something like 10,000 head of cattle" (*Export Times, Sept. 1982*).

How is this possible in the desert?

“ The most vital element is that of water. There are vast underground aquifers now being exploited. Irrigation is done by the pivot system, an American design whereby the huge gantry moves slowly through a vast circle spraying the land. . . pouring out over 100,000 gallons per hour” (*E.T. Sept., 1982*).

British manpower and expertise are still highly regarded, whether it is highly technical in running businesses and industries, or simply tractor drivers, teachers and hospital staff.

“ A flight over Saudi Arabia at night shows up one of the more remarkable developments in that country’s phenomenal growth: highways through the desert and almost every village and town have some form of lighting”.

Jordan: Here too agriculture is getting a good share of development aid.

“ The Jordanian Ministry of agriculture has signed an agreement with the US Agency for International Development to provide the Jordan Valley with its first agricultural research centre. Under the joint venture, USAID will supply \$5.6 million worth of technical and advisory assistance, and the Ministry the buildings and staff” (*E.T. June 1982*).

Jordan’s five year plan ending 1980 involved 2 billion pounds, and the present five year plan is 6 billion pounds. In the previous plan the G.P.D. doubled, and under the present plan the aim is a further 40 per cent increase. “There are opportunities in electricity, water, irrigation and telecommunications, which alone account for nearly a quarter of the plan’s investment” (*E.T. Nov. 1982*).

Jordan is proud of its airline. It makes a profit each year, employs 4,300 people, and is the largest corporation in the country. It replaces aircraft so as to maintain one of the ‘youngest’ fleets in the world. Its efficiency has contributed to making Amman the regional centre for trade and business taking over from Beirut when civil war occurred there in the mid-seventies.

Oman: Oman is a tiny country but of great importance: it is the policeman of the oil waterway at the mouth of the Gulf. It is very loyal to Britain. It has emerged from the past centuries in the last ten years.

“ Oman’s economic development since 1970 has been startling. When Sultan Qaboos deposed his tyrannical father, Said bin Taimur, the country was backward to medieval proportions. The gates of the fortress city of Muscat were locked at night, and a curfew imposed. Citizens carried lanterns after dark in the absence of street lighting. There were two private cars, one 12-bed hospital, and just three primary schools in the country — for boys only” (*E.T. May, 1982*).

Under the present development plan, funded from the oil revenues, a further 1,000 miles of roads are to be built, added to the 1,500 already built; another 310 new schools, a 30% increase in hospital

beds, and a doubling of the electricity generation and water desalination capacity.

The outstanding item in this five year plan is the building of the Qaboos University, costing 215 million pounds. There will be faculties of education, engineering, agriculture, medicine and science; a conference centre, amphitheatre and sports facilities, and a mosque. Another expression of 'knowledge being increased' in this region is the building of a satellite earth station to handle the BBC's overseas services, to relay programmes to the Indian sub-continent and the Far and Middle East.

Kuwait: Kuwait is the world's richest country, measured by income per head of 12,700 pounds! Medical care, education and telephone calls are free. It is a merchant and transit centre for the Middle East. This makes it a good centre for light industry. The MK Electric Company is based in Kuwait and sells plugs, sockets, switches and adaptors throughout the Middle East. They are assembled at their factory in Kuwait.

Bahrein: There is similar development of all service facilities; the surprising one is the building of another university. Work on what is called the Gulf University is already past the foundations stage.

Chapter 5: AMERICA-WESTERN EUROPE-SOVIET

A QUICKENING PACE OF CHANGE

Western Europe for 35 years and more has accepted U.S. leadership in holding the Soviet at bay, primarily through the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), financed largely by America, supported by her troops, and with America holding the finger on the nuclear weapon trigger. Even so, for the last 20 years it has been possible to see changing circumstances in Western Europe moving towards the integration of Western Europe into the Soviet system. This will be a critical moment in Bible prophecy; it will provide the base for building that confederacy of nations expressed in Nebuchadnezzar's Image, that great assembly of human power, which is to confront Jesus Christ. The Image will be shattered by the little Stone, swept away like the chaff of the summer threshing floor, and the Stone will become a great mountain, filling the whole earth.

In the last few years the disillusionment of Western European countries with American policy, and their growing association with the Soviet, has become quite apparent. Western Europe gradually has been growing independent, standing up for its own policies. Living on the doorstep of the Soviet, it has a totally different viewpoint compared with the remote and safer position of America. Europeans are desperately anxious to avoid war, and are frightened by the confrontation complex that the Reagan administration has developed. Their industrialists want to pursue trade and wealth. The rising generation in Western Germany do not seem to be afraid of the Soviet; their concern is for conciliation with the Soviet, and the bringing about of reunion with East Germany. The peoples of Western Europe are broadly socialist-minded and are therefore somewhat attuned to the Soviet regime, shutting their eyes to the oppressive side.

The developing disunity between America, and Western Europe emerged clearly last year after the Afghanistan invasion. Western Europe was not willing to lessen its trade with the Soviet and apply the sanctions President Carter called for. Also following President Carter's sudden alarm at the weakened military position of America and his putting in train a vast re-armament programme in order to restrain the Soviet, a strong Peace and Disarmament movement got under way in Europe, opposing American policy.

1982 has seen much stronger disagreement between America and Western Europe. In the 1981 Milestones we gave a list of headlines

expressing the growing concern of Europe with American actions. Headlines this year are of a much more unfriendly character. For instance:

“Can the Alliance Survive Such Differences” (G.W. 17.1.82)

“Time to Replace NATO with a European Defence Alliance?” (G.W. 31.1.82)

“Why Europeans Don’t Trust America” (G.W. 7.2.82)

“Time to Abandon the Alliance?” (G.W. 28.8.82)

“Can This Partnership Be Saved?” (G.W. 5.9.82)

ESSENTIALLY DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS

In the great variety of articles written this year on American-European relations, there emerges the underlying cause of the growing coolness. Western Europe is afraid of the developing American concept of confrontation with the Soviet. The Reagan administration, on the other hand, believes that confrontation over nuclear arms modernisation and global policy generally is essential if the Soviet leadership is to be persuaded to scale down its challenge to US power. Western Europe believes that this attitude will lead to war — war in **their** countries, and possible domination as in the satellite countries. So Western Europe’s policy is quite different:

“The Western Europeans are still hoping to blunt the strategic challenge of the Soviet bloc by trying to lock the Soviet Union and its satraps into a web of international economic and political commitments” (G.W. 17.1.82).

This is quite a powerful proposition. As another writer said, quoting from a writing of Alex De Tocqueville, “Commerce is the Instrument of Peace Not War”:

“Trade is the natural enemy of all violent passions. Trade loves moderation, delights in compromise, and is careful to avoid danger. It is patient, supple, insinuating. Violent passions have little hold on men whose thoughts are bent on the pursuit of well-being” (G.W. 18.7.82).

So very reasonable, but it cannot be — *“There is no peace, saith my God, for the wicked. . .”*

The unenviable position Western Europe is placed in by the Reagan policy is well expressed by another writer:

“The Europeans see a regional detente as the framework in which Europe can most safely and effectively evolve away from the Yalta settlement (the conference at the end of World War 2, GP); the United States perceives the Soviet Union as a global adversary and Europe as a point of leverage, military, economic and political” (G.W. 11.4.82).

Western Europe’s long history of war and devastation is a very real factor in the present peace-seeking attitude of the peoples of Western Europe. Two American writers have attempted to put this across to the American public. One writer, under the heading “Peace Dependent on the Balance of Power”, after referring to the American

concept that military and economic confrontation can bring about the disintegration of the Soviet empire, continues:

“ Though pleasant to contemplate, that prospect holds implications terrifying to most of our European friends. They have lived for a thousand years in a world marked by rivalries of great powers. Their blood-drenched history has taught them that peace depends on the maintenance of an effective power balance and that war results when that balance is abruptly overturned. Quite understandably they see frightening possibilities in the Reagan administration’s rejection of diplomacy and single-minded concentration on military power. Thus the thought of any action that might promote the disintegration of the present power system in an age of nuclear weapons makes the cold European winter even chillier” (G.W.).

The other writer, under the heading “Why Europeans Don’t Trust America”, writes:

“ We shall gravely err if we do not try to comprehend the conditioning influence of history on the Europeans. They have long been accustomed to wars every generation, and they have learnt from experience to avoid fights if possible — particularly those on their own soil. So some feel tempted to keep out of the way of the superpowers — to sit on the mountain and watch the tigers fight, conveniently forgetting that tigers, too, can climb mountains. There is a counsel of despair, for they no longer believe, as they did for years, that American can — and will, maintain the peace; instead we may get them into war” (G.W. 7.2.82).

CONFRONTATION POLICY: MILITARY

Two aspects of the U.S. military stance especially disturb the Western Europeans. First, the time is now approaching when the U.S. Cruise and Pershing nuclear missiles will actually be installed in Germany to face the SAM missiles of the Soviet on the other side of the border. The Russians particularly fear the Pershing missile:

“ What the mobile Pershing II missile will be able to do, if it works properly, is something that no other atomic weapon in the western arsenal can do now. Launched from sites in western Europe, it will be able to fly 1,000 miles in six to eight minutes, and land with high accuracy and virtually no warning on targets deep in the Soviet Union. . . Only the Pershings could hit the Soviets ‘out of the blue’, in a surprise attack with essentially no warning”.

The Cruise missile is also very accurate in targeting,



Ranges of Proposed Missiles Based in Western Europe.

and it is feared it could be used for a minor or strategic nuclear attack on military sites. So, far from creating a sense of security, many feel they will be nearer to war. Their reaction is contrary to what one might expect — they fear the effects of the Soviet who regard the placing of the missiles as an unfriendly act.

The other alarm arises from the American cool contemplation of there being a limited nuclear war. A nuclear attack is not now regarded as so unthinkable that it acts as a deterrent. Nuclear bombs are now sufficiently controllable, so accurate in targeting and limited in power that America indicates that NATO might use tactical nuclear weapons. The rising generation see all this as unnecessary provocation of the Soviet, and there is an increasingly popular movement for neutrality and disarmament.

CONFRONTATION: ECONOMIC

Additional to the disagreement with the U.S. military policies, there have been a growing number of economic disagreements. The outstanding one has been the Siberian Pipe-line Agreement — providing equipment for the 3,000 mile pipe-line, and the taking of Soviet gas in most Western Europe countries. When the U.S. failed at the end of last year to stop the signing of the Agreement, it deliberately challenged Western Europe by trying to prevent these countries from supplying vital equipment. U.S. firms were required to withdraw licences from their European subsidiaries to prevent manufacture. This was a challenge that provoked the first point-blank refusal of Western Europe to toe the American line. It was a challenge to their national independence and also their national interests. It was harmful to their objective of building friendly commercial ties with the Soviet. It would increase unemployment, already unacceptably high. Moreover they could see that such sanctions on the Soviet would have no effect in bringing freedom to Poland — which was supposed to be Reagan's idea in imposing the sanctions. France, West Germany, Britain, stood firm against the U.S. and defied the trade ban imposed on their firms. The U.S. has had to back down: "Reagan Caves in Over Soviet Pipeline Curbs" was the headline in the Guardian, November 21st. There was talk of a broader agreement between the allies in limiting future trade agreements with the Soviet, but France and Britain asserted they had made no concessions to the U.S.

The U.S. as leader of the 'alliance' has lost considerable face. Western European leaders question Reagan's soundness of judgment to lead the 'West'. America's Washington Post at the start of Reagan's sanctions censured them with the heading: "Meaningless Gestures Expose U.S. Weaknesses". An article in the same issue of the Guardian lamented Reagan's lack of diplomatic skill and his false assumption that the Soviet must yield to the will of American might:

“ The Soviet Union is not an ass. One need not look further than the cleverly contrived Polish clamp-down which caught the West unawares to see that one is not dealing in Moscow with some clumsy, slow-footed or geriatric bear. The Soviet Union is an experienced, sophisticated, and proud nation which will no more allow itself to be pushed around than will the United States” (*G.W. 17.1.82*).

Reagan should have remembered Hungary 1956 and Czechoslovakia 1968. When America tried to stir up a rebellion in these countries, the Soviet did not soften, but clamped down firmly and ruthlessly.

TRADE WARS

The clash over the supplying of the pipeline equipment is not the only economic disagreement. There has developed during the year a wide-ranging trade hostility. The various clashes are expressed in newspaper headlines:

- “ Europe Rejects U.S. Case on Steel” (*G.W. 24.1.82*)
- “ Europe Unites Against U.S. Interest Rates” (*D.T. 17.2.82*)
- “ EEC and America at Loggerheads in Trade Row” (*D.T. 12.7.82*)
- “ Pym Takes a Tough Line in U.S. Talks” (*D.T. 31.7.82*)
- “ Trade Row with U.S. Growing” (*D.T. 18.10.82*)
- “ Britain and EEC to Challenge U.S. Trade Curbs” (*D.T. 22.11.82*)
- “ Stage Set for Trade Showdown for U.S. and EEC” (*D.T. 27.11.82*).

Such headlines sketch the clash of commercial interests rather than political interests. Unwillingness to yield on either side is, of course, strengthened by the world economic recession and high unemployment in Europe and America.

It is not America only that generates the disagreements. The EEC has drafted extensive controls on ‘multinational corporations’ — they are mostly American — which alarm these big companies (*G.W. 28.3.82*). In the latest clash at the end of the year, at the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) conference, it was France and the rest of the EEC who stubbornly stuck to their protectionism — subsidies for agricultural exports, tariffs against imports.

Overall, for the year, nothing good occurred between America and Western Europe in the field of trade and commerce. American hostility is building up amongst the industrialists.

POLITICAL SEPARATION

Military disagreement, economic disagreement, and lastly political disagreement. Nothing dramatic has occurred during the year, but Socialism continues to make headway. Last year we saw socialist governments installed in France and Greece. This year Spain is added to the list. What a change for a country where Franco’s dictatorship was supreme for several decades. The socialist policies being developed in these countries are the reverse of those in America under Reagan,

and it adds to the coolness between the two groups. The American military are wary of giving to these countries information about the Soviet, knowing the affinity between the Socialists and the Soviet.

It should be noted however, that in West Germany Helmut Schmidt, the Socialist, has been replaced as chancellor by Dr. Khol; Dr. Khol is a Catholic and member of the Christian Democratic party in coalition with the Socialists. Khol will not be so friendly towards the Soviet, and will have more sympathy with the Catholic-influenced American government. One wonders whether he will have a part to play in negotiations between the Vatican, Germany, and the Soviet.

Dr. Khol, as soon as he was elected, went out of his way to endorse the Germany-France 'special relation'. On his first meeting with Mr. Mitterand a closer military relationship between the two countries was agreed.

EUROPE DOWN-GRADED IN U.S. POLICY?

It is not difficult to imagine the effect of all these clashes between America and Western Europe on public opinion in the U.S. Against such a background of irritation, national policies and outlook change. Lord Chalfont wrote an article with the title: "When Americans Ask: Whose Side Is Europe On?" After illustrating occasions that have aroused American disillusionment with Europe (increasing the tendency to isolationism, or to 'global Unilateralism',) he continues:

"Whatever it is called, the European members of NATO should regard it with profound alarm. It means influential people in the United States Government are now seriously considering the option of an American foreign policy in which the defence of Europe plays a subordinate and diminishing role."

This was written at the beginning of the year (*D. T. 5.2.82*); matters have changed for the worse since then. In such a matter a dramatic change is very unlikely, but the change evolves over the years as events re-shape policies.

FRANCE ALWAYS THE TROUBLE-MAKER

As of general interest, it is fascinating to note how France is nearly always the trouble-maker, whatever the kind of government in power, whether Catholic or Socialist. De Gaulle spoilt NATO unity by turning the NATO headquarters out of France and telling the American soldiers to leave. Giscard D'Estaing developed the 'special relationship' with the Kremlin which has led the way to Western Europe's detente with the Soviet. In the present clashes with America over the Siberian pipeline, French ministers were the most outspoken and bitter against the U.S. The French foreign minister wrote an article headed: "Europeans Will Not Be Bossed About By America". He was reported as saying at the time "a 'divorce' was gradually taking

place between Washington and the European Capitals"; *Le Monde* expressed the ill feeling with the title "Franco-American Relations At Daggers Drawn?" When the pipeline dispute was patched up, and Reagan extracted himself by saying there was now "substantial agreement" on future economic relations with the Soviet Union, the French promptly said that they had agreed to nothing! Again, in the clashes between Britain and the EEC, it is France that is the main opponent, always maintaining intense self-interest, and only unwillingly forced to compromise. The same self-interest sends Exocet missiles to Argentina, provoking the *Daily Telegraph* editorial, "Unfriendly French".

ROMAN CATHOLIC INFLUENCE ON PRESIDENT REAGAN

It is said President Reagan's foreign policy is a simplistic concept — all troubles arise from the behaviour of the Soviets; he is an anti-Communist. The converse of this is that he has Catholic sympathies. This is not unreasonable in relation to the rest of the American continent. The U.S. must be concerned to maintain a co-operative relation with the Catholic Central and South American countries. Also Canada has strong Catholic tendencies. But his pro-Catholic attitude extends beyond these 'statesman' considerations.

The Reagan policy regarding Poland is worth thinking about. Why has he made such a fuss about the suppression of Solidarity in Poland? He has no genuine interest in President Carter's Human-Rights stand — though, of course, he makes it appear so in the case of Poland. But that it is not genuine can be seen by the fact that he has reversed Carter's efforts in Central America, and stands by the oppressive Catholic rulers. To have driven Western Europe into such disagreement in the matter of the military take-over in Poland and the economic sanctions against the Soviet for authorising it, with so little worthwhile result, needs explanation. The explanation seems to be that he won the Presidential election with the help of the Catholics, and that he is under the influence of his Catholic advisers. Haig, his Secretary of State, who has now retired and has been replaced by Schultz, is a Catholic. The C.I.A. chief is a Catholic, and also the Secretary for Labour (Catholic Universe 6.3.81). But more important than these is W. P. Clark. Reagan dismissed his National Security adviser, Allen, at the beginning of this year and replaced him by an old friend William P. Clark. Clark is a devout Catholic. When he was appointed, the write-up in the *Guardian* had the heading: "Another Conservative Catholic Joins The Team". ('Another' Catholic leaves one wondering just how many Catholics there are in the team). In the write-up, one paragraph reads:

"Those who know him best say Clark's abiding motivation is religious rather than ideological. He is a fervent, conservative Catholic in the 'traditional' mould, who refers to Pope Leo XIII rather than John XXIII".

That is just the kind of Catholic the present Pope would regard as suitable. He is probably one of the Opus Dei Order (see chapter eight). Mr. Clark, as 'an old friend' of Reagan's and a 'fervent conservative Catholic', will be ready to guide Reagan in any direction the Pope wishes America to go. Reagan will be quite ignorant of the bias in the advice from his National Security adviser.

We may recollect there was a very influential Catholic in President Carter's time, his National Security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski. He was also described as a devout Catholic of Polish origin. What a power the Catholics have, to get their adherents into this key position of National Security adviser.

Returning to our question, we may suppose that the Vatican is using these American Catholics to influence the U.S. policy relative to Poland where the Church is pitting its strength against the Soviet. In considering American public opinion, which considerably moulds national policy, one must bear in mind that though the origins of the nation were Puritan, it is now very much affected by European immigration, much of which is Catholic. Immigration from Catholic Central America is currently having a sizeable effect:

"Not only NATO has changed. The United Nations has changed unrecognisably since 1949. Hispanics have poured in from Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Cuba. They have changed the face of New York City, notoriously of southern Florida, of parts of Texas, and of southern California. They are an utterly alien culture. . . . They are largely uncounted because most are in America illegally. . . . a guess by the Immigration Department (is) that 750,000 slipped in last year alone from Mexico. . . . but I am sure this influx is the biggest single issue in the United States today" (*G.W. 14.3.82*).

These Hispanics are Spanish Catholics.

SOVIET'S FUTURE LEADERSHIP

The mixture simmering in the European pot is complex enough. Now we add to it the uncertain future of Soviet leadership after Brezhnev's death. In the summaries about his presidency, it seems widely agreed that he was a cautious man avoiding confrontation, while building up Soviet power. The new Soviet leader, Yuri Andropov, won his position with the support of the Military, against his rival Chernenko, who was thought to be the favourite. One may suppose Andropov will find himself under military pressure in his administration. The Daily Telegraph just before he was elected had an article on the home page with the startling heading: "After Comrade Brezhnev Enter Comrade Bonaparte?" In his article Jullian Amery speculated as to whether the Soviet is approaching an expansionist phase. He sketched the present status of the military machine:

"Alongside this backward civilian economy there has developed a highly efficient military-industrial complex. Nearly six million men under

arms. . . At the back of them stand an incalculable number of administrations, research stations, laboratories, and factories producing for them as well as for the whole adventure of space exploration.

“ The marshals, generals, colonels, scientists, managers, and administrators involved constitute the strongest economic and social force in the Soviet Union. They enjoy total priority in the allocation of resources and a degree of privilege unknown to other sectors outside the very top Communist hierarchy. They can only justify the privileges they enjoy either by magnifying the extent of the dangers threatening the Soviet Union from the West, or by successful offensive action.

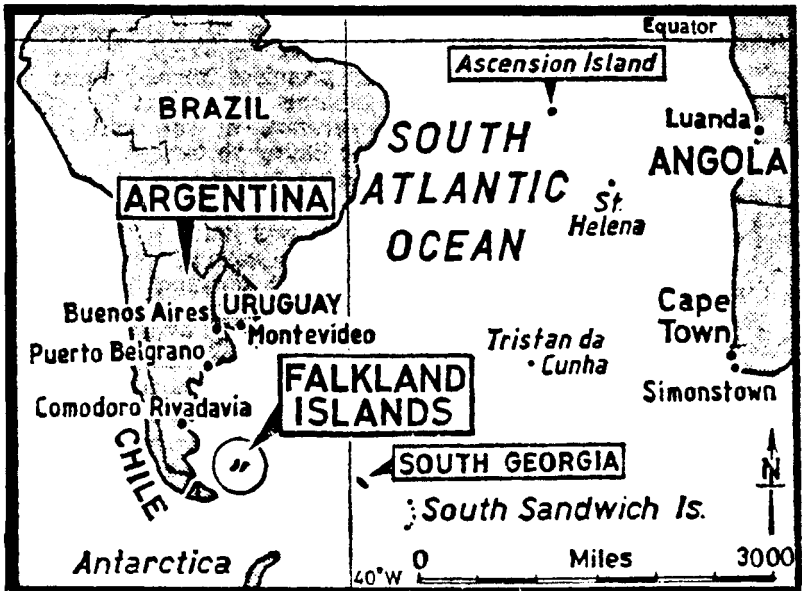
“ The Soviet military-industrial complex is now led by cadres who have never experienced the war. We know little about them. What we do know suggests that they do not share the cautious approach traditionally attributed to Moscow. The Soviet adventures in Angola, Aden and Ethiopia were Elizabethan in their daring. The invasion of Afghanistan was rash. . . How far is this younger elite in charge already? . . . the Soviet invasion of Angola: ‘Even if Brezhnev had wanted to stop it, he would have found it very difficult to do so’ ” (*D.T. 12.11.82*).

Andropov has already emerged as a man of authority and ability. As a previous head of the K.G.B. this is not surprising. He has brought in several new men into the ruling hierarchy, and is thought to be aiming to root out the widespread corruption and incompetence that grips the economic system. Interestingly, when a delegation of Arab leaders was received at the Kremlin, Andropov personally handled the matter, indicating he had a grip on the detail of foreign policy. Brezhnev had to rely on his foreign minister.

Chapter 6: A NEW SPIRIT IN BRITAIN?

AS FOR ISRAEL, PROBABLY A YEAR OF LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES

Important events in Britain in 1982 were the Falklands war, the visit of the Pope, the continuing clash of interests with the Common Market, and the changing political scene with the Labour party in distress and the policies of Mrs. Thatcher and the Conservative party making a greater impact. The significant feature of the year was the revival of the independent spirit of Britain, something we would expect to come about, knowing from the scriptures the part Britain will play when Christ returns. Enoch Powell opened an article in the Guardian Weekly (24.10.82) with the startling words: "The events of 1982 will be found in retrospect to have had an effect like that of a pebble shattering a windscreen of toughened glass. Suddenly, from a single point of impact, the whole polished, transparent surface is fractured at a thousand fissures". More on this later.



THE FALKLANDS WAR.

On Saturday morning, April 3rd, 1982, there were bold headlines in the newspaper:

“ ARGENTINE FORCES SEIZE FALKLANDS: MARINES CAPTURED: MPs WILL MEET TODAY. The three-hour Commons sitting, the first Saturday emergency session since the Suez fighting in 1956 is expected to bring severe criticism from the Opposition parties.”

So the Telegraph thought. But it did not. There was an astonishing unanimity of purpose throughout the House. Heard over the radio it was quite stirring.

In a few days Lord Carrington, foreign secretary, had to resign, and he was replaced by a sterner character, Francis Pym, whose firmness greatly aided Mrs. Thatcher's resolute leadership. In the first major speech after the catastrophe he rallied the House from its 'second thoughts' and unease.

“ Upon Mr. Francis Pym, the new Foreign Secretary, fell the Government's urgent need yesterday for a speech of such authority, resolution and determination as would rescue it from its air of hesitancy and uncertainty. He rose at 3.41 p.m. before a tense and expectant House. One has to say, without qualification, that he succeeded magnificently. It was a new tone in a Foreign Secretary — firm, uncompromising, in place of the graceful airiness of Lord Carrington. It was Beethoven to his lordship's Mozart” (*D.T. 9.4.82*).

There followed seven weeks of negotiations, with Mr. Haig, the American Secretary of State rushing to and fro trying desperately to avoid actual conflict. America was extremely cool to the British intention of military action, if necessary, to regain the Falklands. This, of course, was because of America's great national interest in South America.

This long period of negotiations was not of any detriment to Britain, because it took all this time to get the naval forces and men to the Falklands. The first task force was in position by April 23rd and it imposed a sea and air blockade round the islands. On May 3rd a British destroyer, the Sheffield, was sunk; this followed the torpedoing by the British of the Argentine cruiser with the loss of hundreds of lives. With the collapse of diplomatic efforts, on May 21st, the headline ran: “Into Battle Order Given: Search For Diplomatic Solution Exhausted”. Four weeks later, on June 15th, the bold headlines were: “Argentine Forces Surrender: Troops Rout Defenders Of Port Stanley”.

Amidst all the squabbling and selfishness that seems to make up British life, this Falklands crisis certainly revealed that beneath the surface there is a strength of character and independent spirit that in the world crises that lie ahead, will be called upon to the full. Britain isolated from Europe, standing alone, will need such a spirit, and also a humility not at present manifest, to acknowledge the King.

Mrs. Thatcher detailed to the House the final steps leading to surrender, and added her words of praise:

“ The Battle of the Falklands was a remarkable military operation, boldly planned, bravely executed, and brilliantly accomplished. We owe an enormous debt to the British forces and to the Merchant Marine. We honour them all. They have been supported by a people united in defence of our way of life and of our sovereign territory” (*G.W. 27.6.82*).

The *Guardian*, somewhat critical of events, but loyal, gave their tribute:

“ ‘The victory of Port Stanley is a victory of resource and courage in the face of odds that, many times, seemed daunting; it is built on hundreds of acts of heroism and upon calm professionalism. It deserves an honoured place in British military history” (*G.W. 20.6.82*).

The scale of the operation, the distance travelled, the speed of accomplishment were remarkable:

“ ... we have despatched a task force of prodigious power. The achievements of that force have been phenomenal. But they have carried out their work with such professionalism that we are in danger of underestimating their achievements. Since the Argentinian seizure of the Falklands, our men and women have moved a floating city a distance of 8,000 miles. It is a floating city, nothing less. One hundred ships, dozens of aircraft, helicopters and guns, 27,000 people, and all that they require in fuel, food, water, clothing, spares, ammunition. No other country in the world of our size could have made a comparable effort” (*G.W. 26.6.82*).

THE BRITISH SPIRIT

Freedom, liberty, rule of law, some moral judgment, are the ingredients of the British spirit when aroused — a national spirit cultured by centuries of island existence and sea-going adventure. After the Falklands war, as one would expect, Mrs. Thatcher enthused on this. Addressing her Conservative party at Perth:

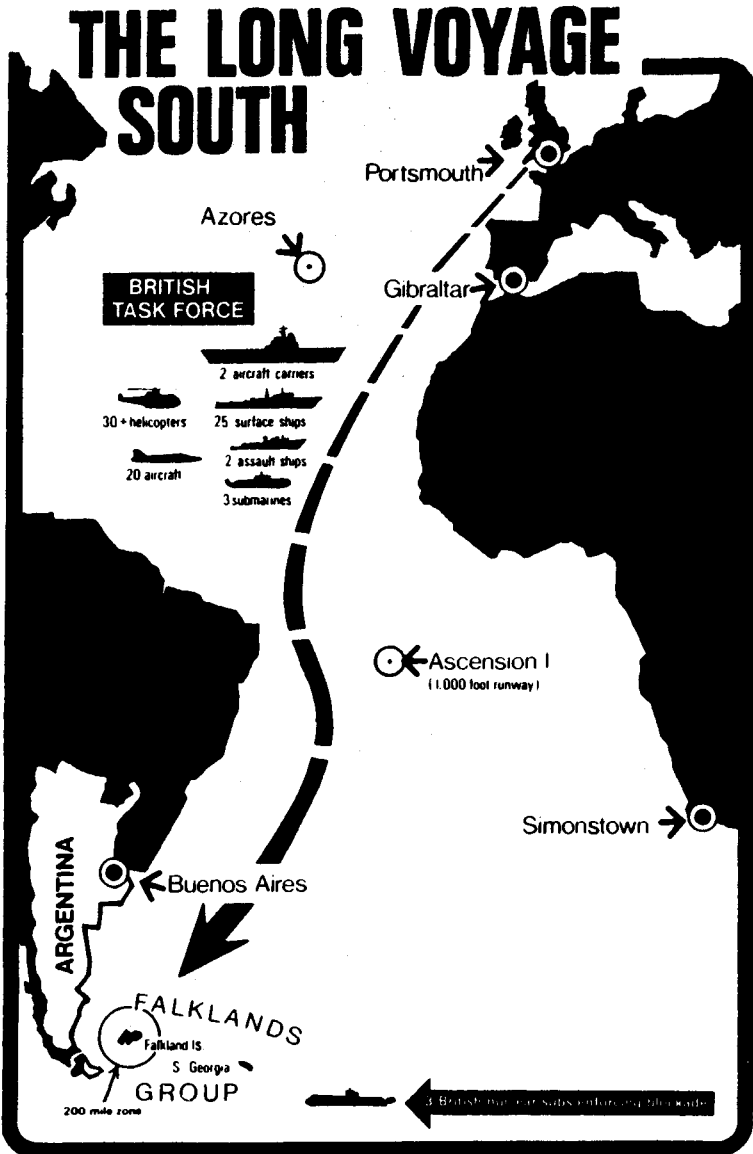
“ ‘ They have tried to tell us that the British people have lost the taste for independent action, that patriotism is outmoded and that the words of the naval prayer for the defence of all those who crossed the seas on their lawful occasions all belonged to the scrap-books of nostalgia. How wrong they were. What we have seen in these last few weeks is this ancient country rising as one nation to meet a challenge that it refuses to ignore. Perhaps we have surprised ourselves, and I know we have surprised all those who didn't think we had it in us. But in these things, Britain leads the world: love of liberty, the rule of law, and the character of our people. Too long submerged, too often denigrated, too easily forgotten, the springs of pride in Britain flow again', Mrs. Thatcher declared” (*D.T. 15.5.82*).

Peter Jenkins, a *Guardian* writer usually critical of the Government, but capable of discernment of the political scene, occupied three columns with the theme: “British Nationalism Aroused”. He wrote of Mrs. Thatcher's moral outlook as well as the patriotic stirrings. There were these interesting paragraphs:—

“ An international Gallup Poll at the end of last year showed that the British were the most ready among western peoples to fight for their country, the strictest parents, the most highly valuing of liberty above equality, and the most confident in the police.

“ Yet something has happened to break the dreary routine of party politics and economic difficulties. Heroic folk-memories have been revived. Patriotic instincts have been aroused and they potentially transcend the dividing lines of class and ideology” (G.W. 27.6.82).

Enoch Powell penetrated more deeply into the scene. His article in the Guardian was headed, “Questioning America’s Vision of the



World”, with an opening paragraph already quoted at the beginning of this chapter. His challenging proposition is unfolded in the following quotation:

“ The centrepiece of those assumptions was the indispensibility of the American alliance as institutionalised in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

“ The British debacle of Suez and the American debacle of Vietnam had left all this untouched. The British public continued to see the world as overshadowed by two giants, the USA and the USSR, identified respectively with good and evil, democracy and communism, liberty and servitude. How could Britain’s choice between the two be in doubt? Once made, that choice allotted to Britain: the role of the faithful but subordinate ally.

“ Then suddenly in April, 1982 the British opened their eyes and looked; and behold, it was not so. Whatever tactful phrases the Government, the politicians, and the media chose to imply, the public were under no misapprehension. America was against us, determined, if it could, to prevent us from repossessing our own in the South Atlantic. Presently, the British observed something else: they noticed that America had not been able to prevent us.

“ Thus was broken the spell which had held a whole generation captive. For the first time in many years Britain now no longer looked upon itself and the world through American eyes, and the view was astonishingly different. It was more rational: and it was more congenial; for after all, it was our own view” (*G.W. 24.10.82*).

Whether this change is as real as Mr. Powell asserts, one cannot prove. Mrs. Thatcher and her government have taken an independent line, not only in the Falklands crisis but also in trade matters, as considered in the previous chapter. Britain sustains a somewhat similar relation to America as does Israel. She is dependent in many ways on the might of America, but definite about her own interests and aware that America cannot do without Britain.

What do the items in this review add up to? No more than seeing Britain separate in moral outlook and capable of independent action that seems foolish in the light of her small resources. In the time of the great crisis that lies ahead for the world, we can suppose that, like Israel, after humiliation, she will have faith to perform the tasks allotted to her by Zion’s King. Such a position is all by the providence of God, who overrules now as in the past. His control has been there for several centuries. The open Bible of the 17th century, the non-conformist movements back to the Word of God, the revival of the Hope of Israel, the widely proclaimed second coming of Christ — these things are God’s work preparing Britain for a work that has to be performed. While Europe is entrenched and fighting bitterly against Israel, the saints and their King, Britain will command the seas and obey the King in co-operating with the Jews scattered in many lands. There is no doubt of this; it has

been long on record:

“King’s daughters were among thy honourable women; upon thy right hand did stand the queen in gold of Ophir. . . And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift (tribute); even the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour” (Psa. 45:9, 11).

INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR DETERRENT

Britain’s instinctive sense of self-reliance comes through in the matter of possessing an independent nuclear deterrent — a nuclear strike which the enemy knows she would use as a last resort, and which is free from any control by America or NATO. Mr. Nott, the Defence Minister, defending the decision to replace the Polaris system in the 1990’s by the expensive Trident D5 system, said:

“ . . . in the end, the British must be responsible for their own defence, and they cannot shuffle it off to the Americans or anyone else. . . Britain could find herself bereft of allies, with other tinpot little dictators acquiring nuclear weapons” (*D.T. 1.3.82*).

A lecture on military matters at Imperial College by Alan Clark was fully reported — a whole page — in the *Guardian*. A case was made out that Britain should withdraw from NATO as France has done, while maintaining co-operation, and should concentrate on her own defence and military control (this was before the Falklands episode). He concluded:

“ I also think people would be very much more ready to pay for a different system which could offer genuine guarantees of security, and would fall entirely within their own control. The level of belligerence, of risk, would be within, and exclusively within, the jurisdiction of people of the United Kingdom exercising the decision through the authority of their elected government. These principles and perceptions have always governed UK foreign policy in the past. The world has become too dangerous a place, and the superpower rivalries too complex and all pervasive, for us to delay any longer a return to our historic state” (*G.W. 21.1.82*).

How true it is that in the past Britain has kept herself out of the strife of Europe.

NAVAL PRIORITY

Over the years, as the British economy has declined, defence expenditure has been curtailed. The defence of Europe has been the priority, and so naval power has declined. The Falklands war has started a re-assessment of defence policy, not only in Britain, but also in NATO:

“ Some senior Allied officers think the defence of the West might be served better if Britain concentrated on mobility. In view of Russia’s wide maritime expansion enabling her to outflank the Alliance, Britain’s mobility of forces shown in the South Atlantic might prove more advantageous than tying up 50,000 men in West Germany at a cost of 800 million pounds a year in support charges alone” (*D.T. 9.8.82*).

At the end of the year this thinking seems to be progressing. In line

with Enoch Powell's observations, there is talk of "Mrs. Thatcher, if re-elected, embarking upon a more independent foreign policy". This was reported in an article by Peter Jenkins with the heading, "Defence Options for a 'Gaullist' Mrs. Thatcher". He writes:

"One option would be to withdraw some or, even, all of the BAOR and the RAF stationed there and concentrate the British contributions of NATO in the Royal Navy and its submarine-borne strategic nuclear missiles. This argument is always cast in terms of NATO burden-sharing but the effect would be to give a much more national configuration to Britain's defences, somewhat more in the manner of the French. Moreover the deterrent might look a lot more independent than it does today if Britain's highly symbolic commitment of land forces to the continent of Europe came to an end".

Mrs. Thatcher is said to be of the 'naval party'. Not only do these tentative ideas on upgrading the navy express a growing awareness that Britain must look after herself, but they are looking in the direction we would expect from prophecy that Britain under the direction of Christ must command the oceans, in the future when the Kingdom is being established.

HOME SERVICE FORCE AND CIVIL DEFENCE

A two-year pilot project is in hand in which volunteers are being trained to fulfil the role of the Home Guard of World War II. "The long term aim is to produce a force of 4,500 men capable of defending vital installations throughout Britain" (*D.T. 18.10.82*). This is an indication of a slow preparation for a war situation.

A national Civil Defence exercise code-named 'Hardrock' had to be abandoned, or postponed, because of the determined attitude of so many local authorities to ignore government instructions. These are Labour councils who support Nuclear Disarmament. One comment was "surely the Government must now accept that it can no longer delay using (and if necessary augmenting) its powers of compulsion under the 1948 Civil Defence Act."

There have been several seminars and discussion on the virtue of developing a citizen army — as in Israel and Switzerland — to strengthen conventional defence. This could involve conscription for training (*G.W. 29.8.82*).

TRADE UNION POWER

The year has seen a noticeable curbing of trade union power, and a number of occasions when the rank and file defied the strike calls of their leaders. Circumstances are forcing a little more sanity among people. Mrs. Thatcher's insistence on the country's living within its means is being slowly appreciated.

Chapter 7: BRITAIN & THE COMMON MARKET

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP?

If 1981 was characterised by angry clashes between Britain and the others, 1982 was more so. There has been an unending state of disagreement and acrimony. France is the main opponent, as in the past, but now more hostile under the leadership of the Socialists, and their particularly hostile minister of agriculture, Mme. E. Gresson.

Perhaps the most noteworthy item is the emergence of a section of the Conservative party who now advocate Britain withdrawing from full membership to an associate-membership of the EEC. Interestingly Mrs. Barbara Castle also advocates that the Labour party should take this approach. The associate-membership idea was set out in a paper published by the Right-wing Monday Club in July.

“ The right-wing Monday Club of Conservative M.P.'s and other party members has come out strongly against Britain's continued membership of the Common Market under present conditions.

“ In a paper published today. . . the Monday Club argues that the Conservative party should commit itself to seeking associate status with the EEC that would preserve free trade with the other members but release Britain from the Community's agricultural policy, EEC legislation, and EEC budget responsibilities” (*D.T. 19.7.82*).

This would have a distinct electioneering value, because it would appeal to the British public who so extensively support the Labour party view of getting out of the Common Market. As reported a few paragraphs on, this is also the view of the French government, that Britain should have a reduced position.

CONTINUING CONFLICT

The year began and ended with the basic antagonism unresolved. Britain insisting that the constitution should be altered so that she and others pay into the EEC approximately what they take out. France receives a lot and pays nothing in. The French *Le Monde* set out the basic situation:

“ BRITAIN STILL CLOGGING THE WORKS OVER THE COMMUNITY BUDGET: Two basically irreconcilable view-points — the United Kingdom's on the one hand and that of the rest of the European Community on the other — met head-on in Brussels on January 25th, making it impossible to wrap up the EEC food and agriculture negotiations which they have been dragging behind them like leg-irons for the past three years” (*G.W. 7.2.82*).

The disagreement and bitterness built up as the months went by. At the end of March the main headline in the *Telegraph* read:

“ BILLS ROW THREATENS EEC UNITY: I WILL BE STUBBORN SAYS MRS THATCHER. The two-day meeting of the Common Market heads of

Government ended in dismay and confusion yesterday as a result of major new differences between Britain and France over a scheme to cut Britain's contribution to the EEC budget over the next few years" (*D.T. 31.3.82*).

Another article on an inside page quoted the French Farm Minister as accusing Mrs. Thatcher of 'a sort of terrorism', and adding 'I think the position of Great Britain is a great danger to the Community'. The paper *Le Monde* followed in a few days with an article headed: "BRITAIN'S EEC BLACKMAIL" (*G.W. 11.4.82*).

Eventually at the end of May the British opposition was crushed by the startling step of over-riding the British veto. Britain was holding up the passing of the farm price increases by linking them with a decision about Britain's annual budget payment of some 1,000 million pounds.

"By a majority of seven to three — Denmark and Greece taking Britain's side — the agricultural ministers decided to force through the price increases and thus over-ride the British veto. In the space of a few hours of dramatic voting they stripped Britain of its major weapon in the fight for a better budget deal, at the same time over-turning the entire basis of the EEC decision-making."

After this Mr. Pym. had to accept a one-year settlement of the budget dispute. The reporter's comment was —

"A week of high drama in the community ended with far more questions than answers. An uneasy peace prevails, but there is little faith it will endure" (*D.T. 26.5.82*).

The day after the veto incident, Mr. Mitterand, the French President, gave his support to the action which his Farm Minister had engineered. "Britain's future in EEC at Stake Says Mitterand" was the headline (*D.T. 20.5.82*). Next day the matter was carried further:

"FRANCE HINTS AT EEC RETHINK ON BRITISH POSITION—Britain's Common Market membership might have to be renegotiated before the present EEC crisis could be overcome, the French Foreign Minister hinted yesterday. M. Claude Cheysson, the Minister, told journalists that France was ready to discuss adjustments to the treaty binding Britain to Europe" (*D.T. 21.5.82*).

So the picture goes on for the rest of the year. In July the disagreement about British fishing rights and fish quotas came to the fore, with the main opponent this time being Denmark: thus "Implacable Danes Torpedo Deal on EEC Fisheries". In September it was the British ban on poultry meat and eggs. "Mr Walker, Agriculture Minister defied an order from the Brussels Commission to lift the ban on poultry meat and eggs imposed a year ago" (*D.T. 16.9.82*). "Britain's refusal to obey orders from the Common Market Commission and lift today the ban on French turkey imports is likely to provide a heated row between EEC farm ministers", was another comment (*D.T. 20.9.82*). In October it was New Zealand butter: "The French and Irish governments are expected to block agreement next Monday on continued imports of New Zealand butter into Britain from next January" (*D.T. 21.10.82*).

At the end of the year Mrs. Thatcher had failed to make any head-way on the main disagreement. So the paper recorded:

“ THATCHER FAILS TO MOVE MITTERAND ON EEC BUDGET: Any hopes Mrs. Thatcher may have had for an early settlement of Britain's Common Market budget problems vanished during her two-day Paris Summit meeting with President Mitterand” (*D.T. 8.11.82*).

THE FUTURE OF THE EEC

This year saw the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome, 29th March, 1957. The Guardian provided a wide-ranging assessment of achievements and failures in the 25 years. A few extracts will be found interesting. The tone of the article was set by the bold heading: “DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN DREAM”.

“ The contrast between the high hopes and even the genuine idealism which inspired the signing of the Rome treaty contrasts sharply with the cynicism and gloom which often envelopes Common Market affairs to-day. Little wonder that the future of the EEC is more often discussed in terms of its ability to survive rather than as forerunner of a united Europe.

“ Viewed from outside Europe, the EEC emerges as a coherent and powerful commercial force. But while in 1957 Europe's doctrine was free trade capitalism, the last years of recession and high unemployment have seen Europe emerge as a force for economic protectionism.

“ The emergence of an economic Fortress Europe alarms both the Japanese and Americans, to say nothing of those developing countries who hope to make it into the industrialised league. It is an open question whether the EEC will not opt to become a financial Fortress Europe, surrounded by capital controls, if the international monetary situation deteriorates.

“ Europe can hardly aspire to political or security super-power status unless it puts its economic house in order. But the slump has highlighted the divergence in the economies of the different Common Market countries and underlines the powerlessness of the Community bodies and national governments to offer a credible strategy for tackling the crisis. According to the pure gospel of traditional Europeanism, the root cause of this paralysis is the refusal of national governments to cede sovereignty to the EEC to permit a meaningful economic strategy to be developed. It is undeniable that the past 15 years has seen the Commission in protracted decline and very far from the embryo government imagined by the founding fathers in 1957.

“ The past decade has seen the calibre of commissioners decline and the European Parliament singularly fail to assert itself as any kind of democratic force.

“ The motor force for the European Union foreseen in gradual economic integration 25 years ago has come to a halt. The cement holding Europe together lies in the common threat and challenge from the outside world” (*G.W. 4.4.82*).

So there is both strength and weakness in the EEC. The weakness is that the countries have not begun to integrate into a U.S.E. — United

States of Europe— after the pattern of the U.S.A. This is as it should be. Bible prophecy describes the countries of Europe as ten horns on the beast (Revelation 17 and 19). They are thus distinct powers. At best they become a confederation, not a federation.

But despite this lack of federation the countries are now bound together by various agreements — no trade tariffs, free movement of labour without national passports, and a partial monetary union. The writer has described the countries as a unit in the phrase 'economic Fortress Europe'. The further common factor is the predominant Roman Catholic religion, so that at the last the ten horns rally round the Papacy.

Chapter 8: THE POPE & HIS CHURCH

THE POPE'S VISIT TO BRITAIN

Out of the vast amount that has been written before and during the Pope's visit, two matters particularly interest us. The one is the charm and power of his manner and personality, that pleases Catholic and non-Catholic alike; and the other is his rebuff to the Re-unionists.

Here are some of the words of praise written about him, The Church Times (Church of England) gave him a welcome before he arrived:

“ Even when there cannot be a complete acceptance of his very Polish brand of Catholicism, John Paul II was already sure of respect and love both because he is the man he is and because he is the Pope” (28.5.82).

A Daily Telegraph writer while the Pope was here:

“ When all the criticisms are made this strong, lonely, yet appealing man of God, at times bowed down by a life of increasing tribulations, stands for goodness; and his visit will have done much to hearten, even in some cases convert, the hundreds of thousands who came to see him” (3.6.82).

The Catholic Herald, under the title “The man and his Mission”, gave quite a revealing appreciation:

“ There is in John Paul a powerful combination of intellectuality and simple popularist religiosity: to his genuine love of people is added the inspired showmanship of a man who might, if history had been different, have been one of Poland's most accomplished actors. It explains the man and his style” (28.6.82).

Again the Church of England, through the bishop of York:

“ He will come in God's name, not just in the name of the Church he represents. We shall rejoice with our Roman brethren at what this great man has already done for the Christian cause in the world at large, and we shall wish him every blessing as he continues his striking and indeed sacrificial ministry on behalf of us all” (C.H. 13.3.82).

And the archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Runcie, also expressed himself in blasphemous style in another issue of the Catholic Herald, with an article entitled: “A Chance For Peter To Strengthen His Brethren”. Norman St. John-Stevas, the Catholic MP, likened the Popes' “most spiritual of journeys” to the days of Wesley:

“ Not since the days of the Wesleys has the kingdom heard such a basic, clear and simple christian message” (C.H. 16.6.82).

If the great men heaped their praise and adulation on this man, the populous expressed theirs in cheers and slogans as the Pope appeared to mediate Mass at the various centres he visited. One reporter referred to the mass excitement— “The noise and cheering were electrifying”.

The more sober Daily Telegraph felt such behaviour called for a

rebuke in an editorial. Referring to the clapping and cheering he received in Canterbury cathedral:

“ For many English people one guesses, it has been a distasteful spectacle. The applause is seen as symptomatic of a vulgarisation of religion, and more serious, of a logical error which puts a human being in the centre of attention and concentrates on him the honour and worship rightly due to the Holy Trinity” (*D.T. 1.6.82*).

Finally from the pen of a Catholic, but probably reflecting most people’s assessment:

“ But whatever the criticisms of John Paul, it is surely true that he towers above almost all the other figures on the world stage today. He is a man of peace in a world driven by strife; a man of integrity in a world which is divided and distraught; a man who practices what he preaches in a world littered with broken promises; a man of hope in a world sinking in its own despair” (*C.H. 28.5.82*).

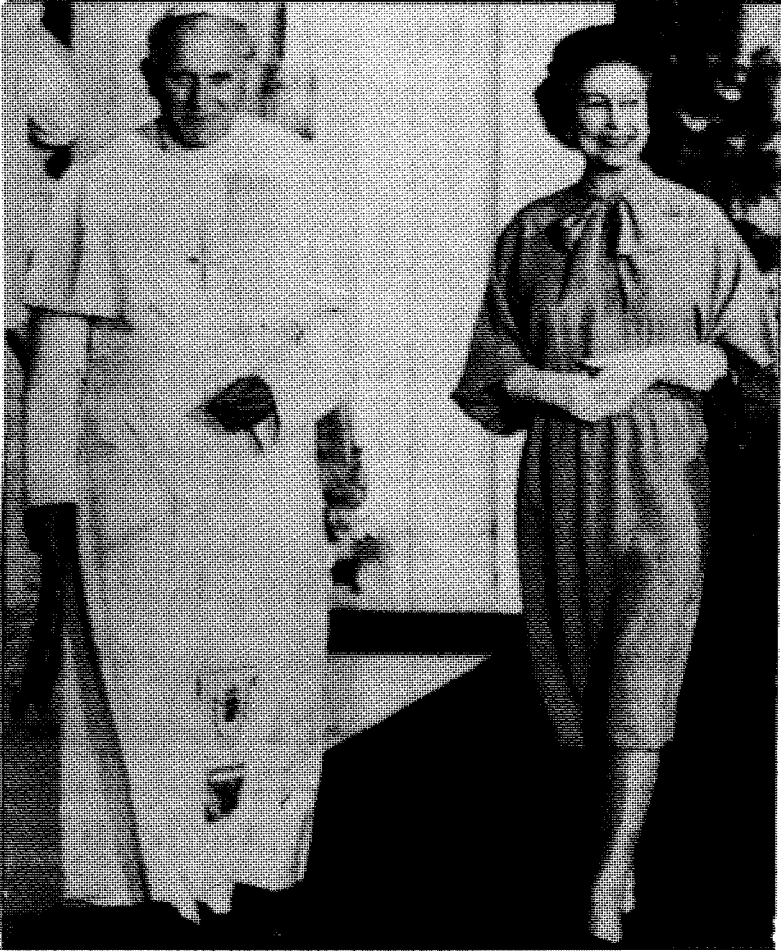
Why spend so much time recounting comments on his visit? We know it is all a deception using the name of the Holy One. We report these sayings because it will help us to understand the growing status of the Roman Catholic Church when linked with this influential figure. The point is that he has already projected this image in some fifteen countries of the world, and is scheduled to continue the worldwide enterprise. He is giving ecclesiastical Rome such a ‘christian’ image, that it is not difficult to see that Rome will be the rallying point of the world against Christ. Says Daniel: “*I beheld, then because of the great words which the horn spake. . .*” (7:11).

REUNION: ONLY ON ROME’S TERMS

The quotations just given reflect the ‘back to Rome’ attitude of the Anglican Church leaders. It is little known that the Pope gave them a ‘slap in the face’ just before he arrived. The developing situation on Reunion was set out in *Milestones ’81*, with particular attention to the three Agreed Statements produced by the Joint Anglican/Roman Catholic Commission, on Eucharistic Doctrine, Ministry and Ordination, and Church Authority. These Statements had the purpose of bridging the gap on doctrinal matters between the two sides. Arising from the three Agreed Statements, a Final Report was prepared by the Commission and published in March of this year. The Telegraph Churches correspondent wrote about the Final Report as follows:

“ ‘WIDE AGREEMENT’ BY ANGLICAN—R.C. COMMISSION—A remarkable degree of doctrinal agreement on the eucharist, the ministry and authority of the Church is likely to be found in the report of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission. The report concludes 10 years work by the joint commission headed on the Anglican side by Archbishop Henry McAddo of Dublin and on the Roman Catholic side by Bishop Alan Clark of East Anglia”.

This Final Report on reunion was awaiting the Pope’s approval, or at least support, a month or so before his visit. He chose to give his



answer just a few weeks before coming to Britain. He plainly said the Report was unacceptable. The Catholic Herald had the headline, "Vatican Rejects Conclusions of Aric Report". This was not made generally known for fear of spoiling the warmth of his visit. The rejection came officially from the Sacred College for the Doctrine of the Faith (SCDF). It made clear that the only acceptable path for the Anglican Church was to accept Rome's dogmas, instead of making compromises and using words of agreement with ambiguous meaning. The concluding paragraph of an analysis of the SCDF reply said this very plainly:

"While it may be gratifying to find the Vatican experts refraining from roundly condemning the joint Commission's suggestions, there seems little that could be done in the future to satisfy its expectations other

than for the Anglicans to embrace the full teaching of the Roman Catholic Church" (C.H. 7.5.82).

Extracts from the SCDF reply are given in the *Catholic Herald*:

"The Final Report... does not yet constitute a substantial and explicit agreement on some essential elements of the Catholic faith because: (1) The Report explicitly recognises that one or another Catholic dogma is not accepted by our Anglican brethren (for example, Eucharistic adoration, infallibility, the Maria dogma); (2) One or another Catholic doctrine is only accepted in part by our Anglican brethren (for example, the primacy of the Bishop of Rome); (3) Certain formulations in the Report are not explicit enough to ensure that they exclude interpretations not in harmony with the Catholic faith (for example that which concerns the Eucharist as a sacrifice, the Real Presence, the nature of the priesthood);..."

Items (4) and (5) need not be given in full; they concern the authority of the Church for defining the faith, in contrast with the Protestant view that the Bible is the essential authority.

One sees the Catholic Church's stand is absolute. Nothing will be yielded.

THE PRESENT POPE SET TO REVERSE THE ECUMENICAL TRENDS OF THE R.C. CHURCH

Those who know Rome will not be surprised at the rejection of the compromise Final Statement, though the absolute quality of the rejection may be surprising. In this rejection one can see the hand of the present Pope. One also becomes aware of his deviousness. Fine words, friendly embraces and exchanges of the kiss of peace, such warmth to his Anglican brethren, and to all others, BUT he is determined to bring the Catholic Church back to its absolute, authoritative position, and reverse the apparent yielding expressed in the documents emanating from the Second Vatican Council of 1965.

The *Guardian* had a four column article looking at the present Pope's objectives. It had the startling title "THE EMPEROR OF ROME". It first sketched the significant acts of the Pope when he was Cardinal Wojyla. In 1972 he started a Review called *Communio*.

"Of course *Communio* is officially in favour of the Second Vatican Council. It is not respectable to be anything else. But it makes sure that the Council is domesticated and neutered. The chief device was to offer an essentially 'spiritual' version of Vatican II: this makes one's opponents appear less spiritual and possibly impious. John Paul uses this tactic frequently.

"For example, he is committed, following the Council, to ecumenism. He has said so on many occasions. He believes what he says. Yet Church unity is presented as a distant goal, a spiritual aspiration, an inaccessible horizon... The reason why the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission's Final Report was so embarrassing was that it represented a theological dialogue that had actually concluded. This had never happened before in modern times. It meant that the 'next step'

had to be real progress towards union. So it was torpedoed by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith."

Another field where this Pope seems to favour, but avoids positive progress, is that of collegiality. He appears to support this by holding Synods of Bishops — there is one just now. The writer of this article comments:

"He always tells groups of Bishops that he favours 'affective and effective collegiality', but he then defines it in such a way that they have no option but to back him up. He does not need advice. So events such as the Roman Synod, instead of being a search for solutions to pastoral problems become rather a celebration rally of unity around the Pope."

The same attitude is attributed to the Pope with regard to the Roman Curia, the cabinet and government in Rome. His actions infer that "the Pope has supreme contempt for the Curia. A one-man band does not need skilled musicians around him." The title of this long article "The Emperor of Rome", is a reflection on an item quoted from a Rome daily paper. It said that John Paul is like the Roman emperors who earned the title of *Restuarantor imperii Romani* — "After a period of crisis they reasserted Imperial authority".

JESUITS DOWNGRADED, OPUS DEI UPGRADED

Two actions of the present Pope fit in with this understanding of his intentions. First he has been severe on the Jesuits, particularly those in Central America. Their fault is that they have been supporting social justice in these countries, caring for the poor and the oppressed. This surely is just what the Pope does in Poland. Yes, but attitudes must be adjusted to the circumstances:

"The Churches' stake in its Latin America future is too great to allow the Jesuits to maintain their high political profile. John Paul's deep-rooted personal antipathy to leftist causes of all stripes, reinforced by the conservative views of his inner circle made the Jesuit 'punishment' almost inevitable" (G.W. 21.2.82).

So in Central America the Pope supports the conservative bishops and the rightwing dictators with their record of suppression and violence; but in Poland he backs the free trade unions and social justice in order to counter the Soviet power (as we saw earlier President Reagan is in line with this).

Having circumscribed the operations of the Jesuits, the Pope has enlarged and given new authority to his own alternative Order, committed to carrying out his wishes. It is called *Opus Dei*, a secret Catholic lay organisation. Many of Franco's advisers and officials were members of *Opus Dei*; they are generally known to be on the side of conservative and right-wing governments around the world (G.W. 21.1.82). They are a lay, not a religious Order, sworn to loyalty to the Church, but having no status in religious doctrine — a position that suits the present Pope. Its members are largely intellectuals and men of influence in various walks of life, who can exert their influence

without it being apparent — they are directors of companies, university lecturers, etc. The purpose of the Order is seeking to do ordinary things well, fulfilling Christ's precepts! This is the cloak for covering their secret activities (G.W. 24.10.82).

Recently the Pope has granted this Order new authority, giving them what is called a "personal prelature". A prelate is one set above, one in authority: Opus Dei members have been given a new authority and status in the Catholic Church. They are no longer a purely lay movement, and now come under the authority of the Congregation of Bishops. A full page article in *Le Monde* describes their activities, and in this new personal prelature they are being made bishops in various parts of the world, men who will be absolutely loyal to the Pope:

"More and more Opus Dei members are being named as bishops in Latin America. Even in Europe, the bishop of Leiria in Portugal, the diocese where the Fatima shrine is, belongs to Opus Dei" (G.W. 24.10.82).

The *Telegraph* in an editorial reveals the more sinister side of Opus Dei, under the heading "A Papal Mistake":

"Recently the movement has been surrounded by scandal, arising largely from the accusations of former members who claim that it puts undue pressure on the young, splits families, and encourages practices, such as self-flagellation, which have long since been abandoned by the most austere monastic orders. It is alleged, in fact, to have developed some of the most odious characteristics of those modern, non-Christian cults whose nefarious activities have caused so much concern in recent years.

"The effect of the new status. . . will be to give this powerful association a measure of autonomy which must help to protect it from proper scrutiny. It will also be taken as a mark of Pope John Paul II's approval for an institution which runs counter to all the liberal and ecumenical elements in the balanced message which he has so far presented to the world" (D.T. 26.8.82).

Sufficient has been presented to show that the 'good' man that the British saw when the Pope came, has other less attractive sides.

THE POPE AND 'PROVIDENCE'

The Pope believes strongly he is a man of providence. This accounts for the self-assurance which he shows in his views and intentions. 'Providence', of course, for the Pope is the protection of 'Our Lady'.

"What makes Pope John Paul so confident and serene is that he believes that his election was 'providential'. . . Moreover, Mehemet Ali Agca's attempt on his life confirmed John Paul in his sense of being providentially chosen. The man was an expert killer. . . Yet his life was preserved, he believes thanks to the intercession of our Lady of Fatima. . . But if his life has been spared, it has been spared for some purpose. This wisdom of his policies had been confirmed. They will be pursued with undimmed vigour" (G.W. 30.5.82).

From the beginning of his priesthood he consecrated himself to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. His complete trust in her is expressed by

his motto: TOTO TUUS ('Altogether thine') in association with a large 'M' for Mary. In 1978 he accepted election as Pope "in a spirit of obedience to Our Lord and with total trust in his Mother, Our Most Holy Lady" (C.H. 7.5.82). In the various countries he visits he makes a pilgrimage to the national shrine of Mary. In this country there was no time for him to go to Walsingham, it is said, so the statue of the Madonna and Child was carried to Wembley when he conducted Mass in the stadium. The statue took the centre place:

"After he kissed it, the statue was placed on the altar with the television cameras zooming in on it for a close-up shot which was seen in homes across the country" (Lynn News and Advertiser 1.6.82).



How we long for the day when such superstition and blasphemy will be swept away by the enlightening glory of the Son of God in the earth, and Mary herself among the redeemed.

THE POPE AND POLAND

Martial law was declared in Poland in December, 1981. Corruption and inefficiency over years, and the defiance of Solidarity and the working class had brought the country economically to chaos. The overall production for 1981 fell by a further 13 per cent. The Jaruzeski government had, it said, no option but to enforce control and try and get industry back to normal.

It is fairly clear that in the previous year the Catholic Church had overplayed its hand in giving such vigorous support to the Solidarity movement, which had little concern for the country's economic well-being. The attempt of the Church to establish political authority and break the power of the existing government had failed. The Church

had to go carefully in attempting to restore its status. It chose to present itself as the mediator. In April the Catholic Herald reported on this with the heading: "The Polish Church Feels For a New Consensus". Archbishop Glemp had issued an Easter message redefining the Church's role under martial law. It called on the faithful to move towards co-operation with the government, but of course wanted the Church to be a partner in the negotiations. It recognised that any future status of Solidarity should not be a challenge to the government. The Daily Telegraph report was similar:

"GLEMP CALLS FOR 'NATIONAL ACCORD IN POLAND'—Poland's Roman Catholic Archbishop Glemp, launched a new national peace initiative yesterday calling on the country's military rulers to create a 'new climate' and offering to work anew for national accord. . . 'The Church wants to offer its services for such a national accord and I invite everyone to join this service' " (*D.T. 12.4.82*).

Jaruzelski has maintained a conciliatory attitude to the Church. In the critical state of the economy he needs the help of the Church to get the co-operation of the people. The Church is powerful.

"Poland's 30 million Roman Catholics, 90 per cent of the population, have been told they are morally obliged to inform their local priest of any arrests, internments or of any one sacked from his job on suspicion of being a Solidarity sympathiser" (*D.T. 19.2.82*).

Observers have been surprised that under military rule the Church has lost none of its freedom. "Polish Church Retains Autonomy Against All Odds", said a headline Feb. 19th, and the article described normal broadcasting, holding of Mass, etc. The Church has chosen to be critical of Walesa, thus lessening its support for the anti-government Solidarity movement. "The Polish Primate Archbishop Glemp has been quoted by an American Senator who saw him last Saturday as expressing impatience with Mr. Walesa's tactics" (*D.T. 24.1.82*). Walesa was released from detention in November and seems to be keeping quiet — probably under instructions from the Church.

Arrangements are being made for the Pope's postponed visit to Poland to take place next year. This is regarded as an expression of the conciliatory attitude of the government. So through another crisis Church and State continue to match up to one another, not friends but needing to show respect to each other.

In the 1980 Milestones extracts, from the book "The Vatican-Moscow Alliance" showed that the socialist trends of the Catholic Church under Popes John XXIII and Paul VI had brought some co-operation between the Vatican and the Kremlin. The present Pope has reversed these socialist trends, re-stating the authority and absolute character of the Church's teaching. Understandably this has resulted in greater hostility between rivals for the ears of the people. It is now alleged that the attempted assassination of the Pope was instigated by

the Soviet K.G.B. with a Bulgarian official as the link with the hired killers (*D.T. 8.12.82*).

EAST GERMANY AND THE PROTESTANTS

“Though the German Democratic Republic (GDR) has the image in the West of being among the more hard-line Communist states, it comes as a surprise to learn just how much freedom the churches have there.”

This opening paragraph introduces a very interesting article that shows the Soviet is realistic and co-operates with religion provided it does not oppose the State, as the Catholics generally do. The Lutheran Church has some 8 million members out of a population of 17 million. The Catholic Church claims a little over one million. The Lutheran Church broke with its West Germany counterpart in 1969 and re-defined its position as “a Church neither alongside nor against (the State), but a Church in socialism”. When the Communist party realised the Church was not going to wither away under socialism it changed its tactics:

“ However the Communist party has now come to realise that this is not going to happen and at an historical summit meeting between leaders of the Lutheran Church and the State in March 1978, Mr. Honecker officially welcomed the co-operation of the Church in the development of society.

“ The most striking symbol of the good relations that exist between the state and the majority Lutheran Church is the committee set up in 1980 to prepare for the celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther next year. The committee has members from the Church and the State.

“ The churches have complete freedom to run their internal affairs without interference; they have services broadcast on a rotating basis by state radio every Sunday morning, and they even get state cash towards upkeep of the clergy. More striking is the network of social services run by both Catholic and Protestant churches with state financial help.

“ The state also funds theological faculties in six universities in all of which Protestants are trained.

“ The churches publish various weekly and monthly magazines as well as running publishing houses which produce a wide variety of titles every year, though they do have to exercise discretion as to what they publish” (*C.H. 16.4.82*).

The Catholic Church has been granted the same freedom as the Protestants. One supposes they have quietly indicated they will adopt the same course as the Protestants, being in such a minority.

As we said at the beginning of the section, this is a most interesting article. It shows the Soviet is not particularly oppressive towards the Church unless the Church defies the State. It indicates how in the future the Soviet will ‘welcome’ and work with a co-operative Catholic church, when the Pope or his successor has to decide on this course.

POSTSCRIPT TO CHAPTER 8

A VATICAN-WASHINGTON CONNECTION

In the 1980 Milestones there are extensive extracts from Avro Manhattan's book "The Vatican-Moscow Alliance" which sketched the turn round of the Vatican at the death of Pope Pius XII in 1958, to espouse not only socialism but to reach some accommodation with Communism. Manhattan writes:

"Emphasis on the social aspect of Christianity was given priority, economic justice became acceptable, and the proletarian origin of the gospel brought to the fore. Christ was presented no longer as Christ the King as Pope Pius XII had done, but as Christ the worker, Christ dispossessed, Christ the proletarian, as Christ the revolutionary".

This path was pursued by John XXIII and Pope Paul VI. The effects were particularly manifest in the Central American countries, where the priests and Jesuits supported the poor and oppressed, stirring up unrest and violence against the conservative dictators; all this in the name of Christ and social justice.

Avro Manhattan has just published a revised edition of his book, with the amended title "The Vatican-Moscow-Washington Alliance" (1982). A copy has just come to hand. It proposes that a Vatican-Washington 'alliance' is in operation, superceding for the present the Vatican-Moscow 'alliance'.

The vital reality of the Vatican-Washington 'alliance' became stunningly evident, claims Manhattan, when U.S. President Reagan picked up the White House telephone on December 14th, 1981 (military takeover in Poland, GP) and had an eight to ten minute private conversation with his Holiness, Pope John Paul II, at the Vatican. This conversation was referred to in the daily press:

"The casualness of the direct talk between Pope and President revealed not only the operational intimacy of the two leaders, but exposed the tip of a submerged political iceberg whose massiveness had not yet been fully assessed by the U.S." (p.67).

Manhattan's revised book has ten new chapters at the beginning, on events since the first edition in 1977. As the years went by the Vatican-Moscow 'alliance' was producing results that alarmed the United States, particularly those on her very border in Central America. The Vatican saw in this the opportunity to advance her objectives and hold a balance of power between the two Super Powers. Her intelligence system and intrigue are certainly capable of controlling such a balance. Manhattan proposes that the long term aim is world domination. Here are a few extracts:

“ The injection of Marxist tenets into Roman Catholicism is meant to undermine the economic and social structures of the lands where it is preached. The election of a pope, John Paul II, hailing from a Communist Catholic country like Poland, is the clearest indication of the course along which the Catholic Church now had decisively embarked. Catholic Marxism, although theologically conservative (note, GP), is a sure formula for world revolution. It is the most dangerous ideological imponderable to emerge in the Western world in recent years. Its ultimate objective is the partial overthrow of the current world order, as a preparatory step for the advent of a Catholicised world communism.

“ For tomorrow, Europe will be fundamentally different from the traditional Europe with which the United States has been dealing in the past. It will be a Europe which is solidly Marxist in economics, Catholic in religion, and Catholic-Communist in politics. As such, it will be a monolithic entity so dramatically new that it will be extremely difficult to assess it in terms of the familiar Euro-american experience. It cannot be otherwise. Because such a Europe will be dominated by an ideology basically hostile to that of the United States. Her hostility will be hardened by the military might of her true protector, the Soviet Union, the only super-power capable of matching if not overwhelming the American thermonuclear deterrent” (*Preface and page 328*).

In such words we may hear the forecast of the words of scripture: “*I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the little horn spake*” (Dan. 7:11); the little horn is in a commanding position: men must hearken to the voice of the great words. All nations are involved: “*And there followed another angel, saying Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wrath of her fornication*”: the nations are made to drink. “*And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, if any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God*” (Rev. 14:8, 9). This indicates that the dreadful Image power of chapter 13:15-17 has been revived. Now is the time for us to qualify to be with the Lamb “*whithersoever he goeth*” in that day of judgment. The Lamb’s attendants are ‘virgins’, and they have the Father’s name written in their forehead.

Epilogue

FIVE MINUTES TO TWELVE

Christadelphians often bemoan the evil of the times and the difficulty of generating holiness in our children and ourselves in such a world. Every external influence, every channel of the media, is constantly exalting “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life”. These are not of the Father, writes John, but of the world. The peril of our times is that we may well be found listening to and watching these things when the Lord arrives upon earth.

We live in a latter-day generation upon which the judgements of God will most certainly fall. No other similar generation of saints has ever been prepared in the day when judgement came. Without exception, only a remnant of the ecclesia has been saved in the hour of reality. In Noah’s day the ecclesia had apostasised, their sons forsaking the Faith and marrying out of the Truth; only Noah, his wife and family were saved and even one of his sons was contaminated by the attitudes of his times. When Yahweh brought Babylon upon Israel it was much the same situation, despite the immediate and specific warnings of the prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel. And though the Son of God had spoken to his generation of Jewry, yet A.D. 70 found few awake, ready to escape to Pella from the Roman legions.

To put it another way — if Christadelphia is to succeed in its desire to be ready for Christ then it will be the only generation of God’s people to do so!

Our loving Heavenly Father has not given us an impossible task. Together with the growth in human evil, He has surrounded our lives with the evidence of His very active hand. Never before have so many prophecies borne upon a generation so that we are daily the beholders of significant developments in the purpose of the Father.

When Robert Roberts, one hundred years ago, began the section in “The Christadelphian” entitled “Israel and their Land”, he did so because of a few isolated incidents that happened over several months. They seemed to be rays of light of the awaited Dawn. The Turkish Government, anxious to improve its sick economy, had passed a law that allowed non-Turks to purchase a title to land in Palestine. The Russian bear had placed a vendetta on their Jews being enlisted into the Russian army, which had hitherto absorbed many Jewish youths to whom other occupations were often barred. Thirdly, a new map of

*The Epilogue was prepared by the Publisher.

Palestine had been published in England, making travel (and settlement) less risky in this still barren and forbidding land. Bro. Roberts was so excited about these small events that he began a new section in the magazine!

This edition of Milestones presents great and significant events in all the main theatres of world activity. A remarkable and powerful nation of Jews has stormed through an Arab country, blockaded an Arab capital city and stood their ground against the world's outcry until their demands were met! Their implacable foe, the PLO forces, have been scattered throughout the Arab world, their voice grows weaker with the passing of each month. The revelations of Russia's involvement in the PLO build up in Lebanon are astounding. Those vast ammunition deposits in the cities of Lebanon can only be seen as Russia's forward supply lines for the battle of Armageddon. Everything written in Russian, every weapon Soviet made! All for Russia's love of the Palestinians? In 1979 Dr. Kissinger's published memoirs revealed from the mouth of the Washington ambassador, Mr. Dobrynin, that Soviet plans for an invasion of Israel were already at hand. This comment was made ten years before, in 1969!

Alas! Our dear brethren and sisters, it appears that the Russians are more prepared for Armageddon than the saints! "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light".

"Persia, Ethiopia and Libya with them" is Ezekiel's comment on the cohorts of Gog. The workings of the K.G.B. in modern-day Persia are nothing short of wonderful. In so few years the eyes of all of us have seen Iran converted from a bastion of U.S. strength and influence to a growing colleague of the Soviet Union. An aging, fanatical octogenarian has sole dictatorial power over this disorderly nation of 35 million people, whilst the highly disciplined units of the K.G.B. organise all the key power services in the country! Iran's war with Iraq and her increasing reliance upon Russia in the war effort is sending shock waves throughout all the surrounding Arab nations. It is not difficult now to see them quicken their disputes with Israel in the light of the growing and common threat from the north. Egypt has done so, Lebanon is in the process and no Arab nation or combination of them could seriously challenge Israel again in the field of battle. Ninety Syrian planes, the best that Russia could provide, downed in the Bekaa Valley without one Israeli loss, is evidence enough that an "exceeding great army" has arisen from the 'Valley of Dry Bones'.

"When these things begin to come to pass", said our Lord Jesus Christ, "then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption

draweth nigh". We surely never imagined that we would see such large and green leaves upon the Fig Tree. The shoots were the early settlements, the waves of Aliyah bringing life and barren lands through the foil of desperate people. Today, their army is rated fourth in the world and their air force in certain areas vies with the U.S. for first place!

We cannot glory in Israel's resort to arms for her defence, nor joy in this people of God putting their trust in the Mirages and Phantoms of her air force. David was victorious with five little stones from the Brook of Elah! His star is now purportedly upon the Israeli flag. Yet David wrote "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright" (Psa. 20:7-8). The 'Mirages' and 'Phantoms' will yet prove just that.

Nevertheless, dear brethren and sisters, behold how advanced are the days of our pilgrimage. Our redemption surely is near at hand! Whilst we truly live in a wicked generation, our heavenly Father has wonderfully blessed us with the knowledge of the times. The political heavens are full of the signs of the times. Again there is the significant re-emergence of Papal influence and intrigue. All through the world, wherever a door will open, this new phenomenon is seen as Pope John Paul II wields his charismatic power over the unsuspecting masses. And the modern Pope is as traditionally Catholic as any before him, yet adapting his political line to take the lead in the growing world socialist movement. We have no need to re-assess our evaluation of the Papacy or its identification in history. Never let us forget that it was the papists themselves who first propounded the futurist views of the Apocalypse and tried to obscure the identity of the beast and the mother of harlots when the Protestants were pointing the finger at the Vatican. Their camouflage has been largely successful and now there are all manner of books upon the supposed future anti-Christ. It will surely be the ultimate tragedy when Christadelphia yields to the Papist doctrine.

How shall we deliver ourselves from the rushing tide of the nations going headlong to destruction? Draw ourselves with our children around the Word of God and make its lessons live. Teach them what to look for and the significance of the times in which our lives are cast. Let us be about our ecclesial affairs, building faith and love in all the members of our meetings and boldly exhorting against the brash and profane manners of the rising generation. We must not conform. We must resist every step which seeks under all plausible human wisdom to change the standards of our behaviour and decorum. The ways

thereof are the ways of death.

And since, in the blessings of our Heavenly Father, we have the message of the times, let us pursue a vigorous proclamation of a true Gospel and be prepared personally to give an answer of the hope that is within us, with meekness and with fear.

*“Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him:
Fret not thyself because of him who prospers in his way,
Because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.
Cease from anger and forsake wrath:
Fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.
For evildoers shall be cut off:
But those that wait upon the LORD,
They shall inherit the earth.
For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be:
Yea, thou shalt consider his place and it shall not be.
But the meek shall inherit the earth;
And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace”*
(Psa. 37:7-11).

Further copies of this book are obtainable from:—

- GRAHAM PEARCE (Publishing)
Yelvertoft Road,
Crick,
Northampton, NN6 7XS
England.
- CHRISTADELPHIAN SCRIPTURE STUDY SERVICE
17 Braemar Road,
Torrens Park,
South Australia, 5062
Australia.

Typeset and Printed by Stallard & Potter,
2 Jervois Street, Torrensville South Australia 5031



AN URGENT APPEAL

Year after year, Brother Graham Pearce has carefully collected, sifted, analysed and written about the major events occurring in the world. His pen has been active in several publications with the specific purpose of warning the Brotherhood with not only the signs of the times, but also their significance in ordering our individual lives.

What are we doing with these Milestones? There are four possible responses and this committee is aware that too many are not involved in the first response:

- (1) reading Milestones, digesting it and implementing specific action based on the contents;
- (2) reading Milestones because it puts all the pieces together just as other games we play such as crosswords and jigsaws;
- (3) thinking that we are capable of implementing corrective action in our lives without considering a major source of the signs and their significance;
- (4) ignoring the book and any other corrective action.

Responses 2, 3 and 4 are dangerous courses of action. We therefore appeal to the Brotherhood to warn and encourage those who respond in this way so that they might go to those who sell oil and purchase it before the Bridegroom comes.

The Publishing Committee.